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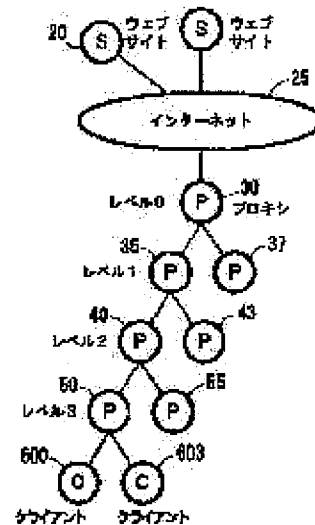
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(54) DYNAMIC PUSH FILTERING METHOD ACCOMPANIED BY STAGING/ BUFFERING IN PROXY HIERARCHY

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a push base filtering system in a client-server hierarchy and a method for annexing the annotation of meta information related to the contents of a push object or urgency or both of them to the object based on using state information.

SOLUTION: Objects are staged in a server so that each filtered object can be quickly accessed at the time of requiring it thereafter. A contents provider or an upper level proxy for annotating an object transmits information including urgency, a summary or a title, group classification, or push discrimination, or all of them by using a PICS protocol so that using state or preference information related to the pushed object including using state information and user preference based on object group classification is transmitted to an upper level in hierarchy and each staged object is transmitted to a lower level in the hierarchy, improving the efficiency of caching.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]A way characterized by comprising the following a pushed object filters dynamically an object pushed after that in a proxy hierarchy to whom inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad.

A step which transmits inside of a hierarchy for using state information relevant to a pushed object up.

A step which filters an object pushed after that based on transmitted object using state information.

[Claim 2]A way characterized by comprising the following a pushed object filters dynamically an object pushed in a proxy hierarchy to whom inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad.

A step which synthesizes information and are exchanged between nodes.

A step which filters a pushed object based on information synthesized and exchanged.

[Claim 3]A method according to claim 2 of containing further a step which transmits meta information relevant to an object by which said filtering step was filtered.

[Claim 4]Completion of the success reverse side of a push to the lower level proxy / client which was filtering-determined and was chosen, A method according to claim 1 of containing further a step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on either of the staging determination by using state information and other proxy nodes in a hierarchy.

[Claim 5]A way according to claim 1 said step to which a pushed object filters an object pushed after that including a contents hierarchy of meta information contains further a step which transmits meta information for inside of a proxy hierarchy caudad.

[Claim 6]A way according to claim 5 said step which transmits meta information contains further a step which carries out staging of the object filtered [inside / of a hierarchy] in short

explanation of an object with a step which transmits caudad within a proxy hierarchy.

[Claim 7] Said step which carries out staging of the object. [which has the potential interest shown by a user profile] [whether all the low-ranking proxies or client nodes of a level received an object immediately, and] Or a method according to claim 4 of containing further a step which purges an object by which a staging urgency factor was less than predetermined and a calculation threshold, or staging was carried out after [the] either.

[Claim 8] A way according to claim 1 said filtering step contains further a step which specifies further a comprehensive using state and preference of an object by a low rank client node of all in a hierarchy which were pushed.

[Claim 9] A method according to claim 4 that an object is classified into an object group and each object group's using state information is based on a former users request pattern.

[Claim 10] A step classified into a group from whom using state information differs said pushed object including a lower level proxy or a demand pattern of a client, A step which synthesizes using state information including a group division of a pushed object, and are exchanged between nodes, A method according to claim 1 of containing further a step which filters an object pushed based on grouping of information synthesized and exchanged and a pushed object.

[Claim 11] A way according to claim 4 filtering determination or staging determination is a function of either bandwidth, an object property or the client characteristic.

[Claim 12] A way according to claim 11 the client characteristic includes a user profile or preference information.

[Claim 13] A way according to claim 1 said filtering step is a function of an object urgency sign including further a step which relates with an object which had an object urgency sign pushed, and transmits inside of a hierarchy caudad.

[Claim 14] A way according to claim 4 said staging step contains a step which carries out staging of the object on one or more levels of a contents hierarchy as a function of an urgency sign including further a step which relates an urgency sign with one or more different layer levels.

[Claim 15] A way according to claim 4 staging either said filtering step or a step is a function of object size.

[Claim 16] A way according to claim 4 said staging either said filtering step or step is a life of an object, or a function of expiration time.

[Claim 17] A method according to claim 4 of containing further a step which transmits to an object which said staging step was answered [object] and had staging status of a pushed object pushed.

[Claim 18] A way according to claim 4 a proxy hierarchy contains a different-species proxy hierarchy of said filtering step and said staging step by whom ** is someday performed

depending on no servers in a hierarchy.

[Claim 19] Create a PICS using state label and a step with which comprehensive using state information on a proxy hierarchy's lower level is expressed using a PICS categorical value is included further, A way according to claim 2 said transmission step contains a step which transmits inside of a hierarchy for comprehensive using state information up using a PICS using state label.

[Claim 20] A step which creates a PICS staging label and with which staging status of an object in a proxy hierarchy's given level by which staging was carried out is expressed using a PICS categorical value, A method according to claim 4 of containing further a step which transmits inside of a hierarchy for staging status caudad using a PICS staging label.

[Claim 21] A method according to claim 4 of creating a PICS push label and containing further a step showing an urgency sign of an object pushed using a PICS categorical value, and a step which transmits inside of a hierarchy for an urgency sign caudad using a PICS push label.

[Claim 22] A method given in any 1 paragraph of claim 1 3, 5, 6 and 9 10 and 14 15 and 19 thru/or 20 or 21 which transmits information for inside of a hierarchy using a meta information protocol.

[Claim 23] A method given in any 1 paragraph of claim 1 3, 5, 6 and 9 10 and 14 15 and 19 thru/or 20 or 21 which transmits information for inside of a hierarchy using a PISC protocol.

[Claim 24] A method according to claim 4 of creating a PICS push label and containing further a step showing a summary of an object pushed using a PICS categorical value, and a step which transmits inside of a hierarchy for a summary caudad using a PICS push label.

[Claim 25] A method according to claim 1 of containing further a step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on staging determination about a proxy node besides a hierarchy.

[Claim 26] A proxy hierarchy by whom inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to a stream of a pushed object, comprising:

A step which is how to filter dynamically an object pushed after that, and attaches notes of meta information to a push stream.

A step which answers the aforementioned notes attachment step and filters one or more pushed objects.

[Claim 27] A method according to claim 6 which will change it if staging either filtering determination or determination differs in a contents hierarchy's level.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the improved data processing system. The specific mode of this invention is related with the dynamic push (or simultaneous transmissive communication) filtering method which sends an object or a document within the hierarchy of a proxy server. The still more specific mode of this invention is related with the procedure which pushes Webobject to World Wide Web (WWW).

[0002]The following glossary will also be useful although a part of term used on glossary book specifications has a meaning which a dictionary has.

[0003]The network which consists of the network and gateway which use the TCP/IP protocol of an Internet series.

[0004]A client client is a computer which publishes a command to a server and performs the task corresponding to the command.

[0005]The arbitrary computers which perform a task according to the command of a computer besides a server are servers. A Web server usually supports one or more clients.

[0006]World Wide Web (WWW or web)

Application of the Internet for looking for information on the Internet switch between servers and between databases by clicking words and phrases (hyperlink) with the language by which highlighting was carried out, or concern. The Internet WWW server supports a client and provides information. All the resources can be addressed as URL, and the web can display the information corresponding to URL using HTML, and can consider that it is the Internet which provides the interface by the point and click to other URL.

[0007]Universal resource locator (URL)

A method for identifying or addressing the information on the Internet uniquely. The web document version or the file name which is thoroughly qualified of an E-mail address. It is

accessible with Haar Per Rink in these. One example of URL is "http://www.philipyu.com:80 / table.html." URL is provided with four ingredients here. The protocol used at first is specified starting with the left, and it dissociates by the remaining locator and ":". The 2nd is a target host's host name or IP address. As for this, left-hand side is "/" and right-hand side is divided by ":" as "/" or option. A port number is option, left-hand side is divided by a host name and ":", and right-hand side is divided by "/" The 4th ingredient is a actual file name or a program name. This example shows that the extension of ".html" is an HTML file.

[0008]HyperText Markup Language (HTML)

HTML is a language which a Web server uses, in order to connect at other web documents which create a document and can especially be perused from a web client (with hyperlink course).

[0009]HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP or http)

HTTP is an example of the non-state protocol meaning all the demands to a server from a client being treated independently. A server does not have record of former connection. It is shown that "http:" in the beginning of URL communicates using HTTP about the resources of specification of a request source client and a target server.

[0010]The KURAFIKARU interface which performs Internet Protocol, such as an Internet browser or web browser http, and displays the result on a user's screen. The browser can function as a tour guide of the Internet provided with the desktop screen, directory, and retrieving tool which are used when a user does "surfing" of the Internet. In this example of application, a web browser is client service which communicates with World Wide Web.

[0011]Client cash client cash is usually used as a level 1 cache for objects which a client accesses. In the WWW environment, client cash is usually carried out by the web browser, and the non-durability cash which carries out cash of the object into the present call may be sufficient as it, and it can also carry out cash of the object ranging over two or more calls.

[0012]The dedicated server in a network which works as an agent for a cash advance proxy client, and finds the copy to which cash of the object was carried out. Since a cash advance proxy is called as a result of the cache miss from client cash, it usually operates as cash of the level beyond the secondary it.

[0013]HTTP demon (HTTDP)

A server provided with a HyperText Transfer Protocol and a common gateway interface function. HTTDP is usually supported by the access agent who provides accesses to the Internet, such as hardware connection, TCP/IP coupling, etc. to a machine on intranet.

[0014]The traffic volume on the Internet is also increasing in connection with a popular rapid rise of World Wide Web (WWW or web). As a result, a web is a primary bottleneck of a network performance. When there is a demand of a document or information from the user connected to the server via the low speed network link, in a user end, it must be ready for

remarkable waiting time. The alternate method for avoiding the time and effort of waiting for the demanded document for a long time although "pull" is carried out, While the document applicable to a content provider becomes usable, it is the method of "making pushing to a user based on user preference or a profile specified beforehand" a document.

[0015]It is tended from a network to overflow this push method. Since a user's preference specification tends to become unsuitable, this happens owing to too much many documents being pushed at a user's origin.

[0016]In the conventional "pull" method, one method of reducing the waiting time of access is carrying out cash of the copy of information familiar to popular document or user, and the waiting time of access from there becomes shorter. This cash advance can be carried out on various points on a network. For example, in a big university and company, there is an original local cache and all the users whom the network joined may be able to take out a document from there. The dedicated server called the cash advance proxy which can operate as an agent for a client depending on the case is carried out in a network, in order to find the copy to which cash of the document was carried out. Usually, since the cash advance proxy relates only to the cache miss from client (1st order) cash, it operates as cash of the level beyond the secondary it. Client cash is usually a part of web browser, and can memorize the document which memorizes the object accessed into the present call (non-durability cash which is carried out by Mosaic), or was accessed ranging over two or more calls.

[0017]Generally, the hierarchy of a proxy is constituted by a client and the server (one or more). In a computer network, one or more project proxies, section proxies, site proxies, etc. exist. The service provider of the Internet can carry out a proxy by one or more, such as each neighborhood, each low rank area, and an every place region. A client, a proxy, or its both form a cash advance hierarchy. In a strict hierarchy, if a cache miss arises (client), a proxy will require a hierarchy's object immediately missing from the upper level via a cash advance proxy interface like the HTTP interface used in CERN HTTP cash. These days, it can ask more a "brother" or "neighboring" cash in HARVEST at the time of a cache miss (C. M. Brown (Brown) others). "Harvest : Refer to 94 or A Scalable, Customizable Discovery and Access System" University of Colorado, computer science part, and technical report CU-CS-732-1994.

Regardless of the object by which the cash advance was carried out by the proxy of others [case / any / determination / of a cash advance], it is carried out by each local proxy. In other words, determination of a cash advance is performed only as a function of the contents of a local cache, the object characteristic, or its both.

[0018]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]As mentioned above, filtering and the proxy server of a push base are developed, and the system based on the actual using state of a viewer is required. The system and the method that staging determination is performed based on the

result of push filtering determination and a push activity are required. It is necessary to employ a proxy hierarchy more effectively between proxy servers by the transmission and reception or exchange of information between a contents server and a client. This invention relates to the above-mentioned necessity.

[0019]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention is aimed at a method and a system which filter push information on a client server hierarchy based on actual use information if needed [above]. The using state information can contain actual object reference/access pattern. The staging cash manager can make rapid access possible, when it carries out by a server (one or more) and a filtered object is required later.

[0020] A method provided with a function by this invention which filters dynamically an object pushed in a proxy hierarchy by whom inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to a pushed object, A step which filters an object pushed based on object use information transmitted in inside of a hierarchy a step which transmits up, and after that in use information relevant to a pushed object is included.

[0021] Another mode of this invention contains an addition step which synthesizes information and are exchanged between nodes, and an addition step which filters a pushed object based on information synthesized and exchanged. This filtering step can contain a step which transmits meta information relevant to an object filtered further.

[0022] Completion of the success reverse side of a push to the lower level proxy / client which another mode of this invention was filtering-determined and was chosen, A step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on either of the staging determination by using state information and other proxy nodes in a hierarchy is included. Cash can be more effectively managed by a proxy server's purging timely an object by which staging was carried out, and reducing redundant staging of an object with other functions.

[0023] In another mode of this invention, a step to which a pushed object filters an object pushed after that including a contents hierarchy of meta information contains further a step which transmits meta information for inside of a proxy hierarchy caudad.

[0024] In another mode of this invention, push filtering includes determination of a push with a contents level. It is possible for determination of filtering to push only a title or a summary (not being the whole contents) to some nodes of a hierarchy of the following level (low rank). Thus, determination of filtering is possible on a content level which whether a node of a level of next throat (low rank) not only receives a push but each node receives. Determination of filtering to a node of the following level (low rank) can be based on synthesis information of a using state of all the users under a node of the following level (low rank).

[0025] In another mode of this invention, inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to a stream of a pushed object, A method of filtering dynamically an object pushed after that contains a

step which attaches notes of meta information to a push stream, and a step which filters one or more objects which answered a step of notes attachment and were pushed.

[0026] In another mode of this invention, various kinds of information can be transmitted by Internet environment using a PICS protocol. First, using PICS, a content provider or a proxy node of an upper level attaches notes to an object, namely, can specify the characteristic of information about a push object. This information can contain all transmitting agency channels (discernment) of a summary of urgency of a push object or a priority, and object contents or a title, a group classification, or a push, or these. A using state of preference information on a push object can be transmitted [2nd] to the upper part from a hierarchy's lower level using PICS. Using state information based on an object group classification and user preference can be included in this. Inside of a hierarchy can be transmitted [3rd] for a staging state of each object by which staging was carried out (some or all of high order hierarchies) below using PICS. In this case, a PICS protocol can be generalized and exchange or transmission of information can be performed over the whole hierarchy. If it says to details more, these information of various kinds of is memorizable to a header of an object using a PICS protocol. A PICS label new about each information type can be defined, and a PICS categorical value can be made to correspond to a specific situation. The lower level server (or client) can interpret a PICS categorical value, and can increase the efficiency of a push or determination of staging.

[0027]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The whole hierarchy architecture of the proxy server provided with the function of this invention is shown in drawing 1. As shown in a figure, a client (600...603) is connectable with the Internet (25) via the hierarchy (level 0 ... level 3) of a proxy server (30...55). When it says only within this example, the proxy hierarchy of a graphic display contains the proxy server of four levels. Any number of a proxy hierarchy's levels are not cared about, but a client (600...603) will understand that it is actually connectable with every level of the, if it is a person skilled in the art. The proxy (30) of a record level (level 0) is connected to the Internet. As for the proxy of level 1, those with two (35 and 37) and one level 1 proxy 35 are connected to the proxy (40 and 43) of the level 2. Subsequently to the proxy (40, 35, 30) of the levels 2, 1, and 0, the client 603 is combined with the proxy (50) of the level (level 3) immediately on it. The client can access various websites (20) via the Internet (25). Since a client manages staging and User Information, it can have a client proxy of itself. The hierarchy of a proxy server will also understand that one client (600) and a single proxy server can be included, if he is a person skilled in the art.

[0028] If it sees from a client (603), a certain kind of proxy (55, 43, and 37) is not a part of the proxy hierarchy. He will understand the proxy of a lower level, if it is a person skilled in the art about the ability to communicate to the proxy of other upper levels of the direct Internet,

although a typical communication path is a proxy course of an upper level immediately.

[0029]In the conventional proxy hierarchy, an object is caudad pushed after reception of the pushed object to the proxy of the following level (low rank). On the other hand, in "pull" demand by the object which cannot be used locally, the demand of a lack object is given to a push of the following upper level. When an upper level proxy carries out staging of the object before, this proxy passes an object caudad. When that is not right, this proxy tends to obtain an object from an upper level proxy. The inputted object is caudad passed to the proxy of the following lower level which is demanding the object.

[0030]Note that drawing 1 is a figure showing only the logical connection showing the flow of an object and the information on a demand. This figure is not a physical-connection figure. Logical connection may change by physical events, such as a workload, a node or a link fault. If the types of an object differ, the logical paths which reach to a user may also differ.

[0031]If it surveys, the server (30...50) of this invention will push a push object and the information about the determination of the staging to the proxy of the following level (low rank) with an object. Not only the determination of staging of itself but the determination (one or more) of the whole high order hierarchy's staging can actually be passed caudad.

[0032]This invention is further provided with the function for transmitting information to a hierarchy's method of the upper and lower sides efficiently. When carrying out http, information exchange can be included in an object header using the existing web protocol. PICS ("platform for Internet-contents selection") specifies how to transmit the meta information about electronic content. PICS is web consortium protocol advice (see <http://www.w3.org/PICS>). Since PICS was promoted in the evaluation label of a value base, such as "what quantity of nudity (nudity) is related with these contents", it was used for the first time, but a format and meaning of meta information are completely common. In PICS, according to the source of generation and schedule using state of "evaluation service" or information, the group division of the meta information of electronic content is carried out, and arbitrary numbers of the categories or dimensions of information can be transmitted in one of groups. There is the range of the value allowed in each category, and a value single [a specific category] about the specific contents of one affair or multiple can be taken. The meta information group (known as a "PICS label") can include expiration information. The function applied to two or more electronic content also has PICS. The PICS label of the specific electronic content of one affair can be independently deleted from an addition or there to contents.

[0033]For example, an image file can be transmitted to the server which attached the single PICS label in which it is shown that the "evaluation service" field contains the evaluation label of a value base according to the "Safesurf" assessment system. According to this invention, when an image file carries out company proxy passage, it can receive the 2nd PICS label in which it is shown that the "evaluation service" field includes proxy staging information. When

passing a section proxy, the 2nd PICS label can be stripped. Thus, refer only to the 1st PICS label for a client computer. The http protocol is reinforcing the request header and response header which support PICS. It is taking into consideration that the technical organization which specifies other common application protocols, such as NNTP, also adds a PICS support. As a part of such a protocol, the list of types of a desired PICS label can also be included by demand. PICS has specified the reference format which receives PICS information from a central label office server. The example of a PICS label is (PICS-1.1

"http://the.rating.service"label for" http://the.content"exp"1997.07.01T08:15-0500" r (n4s3v210)), A transmission name various meta information type and the application possible value of these contents of "n", "s", "v", and "l" are 4 (in the case of n), 3 (in the case of s), 2 (in the case of v), and 0 (in the case of l) here. Probably, only the software which recognizes ID "http://the.rating.service" will be possible for the interpretation of these categories and a value. [0034]According to a desirable embodiment, three different PICS labels are used. The proxy of a content provider or an upper level uses the PICS label of the 1st kind called a push label or (P-label), and it specifies notes attachment of an object, i.e., the characteristic of a push object, or specifies the information about it. Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0035]- The value of an urgency category:"urgency" category shows the urgency which pushes an object caudad. "UV" is defined as the categorical value.

[0036]- The value of a summary category:"summary" category shows the short summary of a push object / document. In a more common case, one object can be specified on two or more detailed levels. This contents hierarchy can consist of the three or more above-mentioned levels (full contents and summary). For example, another title level can be included. In the case of a news object, titles, such as a summary of "the terrorist devised the bomb in the shopping center and the binary name died" and "explosion of a bomb" which are all the contents of news, can be included. The contents level of additions, such as a title, can be specified with P-label using another category of the contents level of each addition. There is a "title" category of an object title in this example. An urgent categorical value which is different from all the objects (namely, all the contents) is made also as for specification to a summary category. For example, a higher urgency categorical value can be specified as a summary.

[0037]- The value of a group category:"group" category shows the classification of an object. For example, in the case of the simultaneous transmissive communication of an in-house newsletter, the typical group categorical value can include a "company", "HR", a "section", a "competitor", etc. The 1st purpose of introducing a group category is for a group category to enable it to collect User Information (the following paragraph explains), and to enable a push by a group category.

[0038]- The value of a channel category:"channel" category shows a simultaneous

transmissive communication channel or a contents transmission source. For example, they are an internal enterprise channel or an external channel which can be used from Pointcast and Inc. with the trademark of POINTCAST (<http://www.pointcast.com>). A different channel can be provided with a different group category.

[0039]It is discussed by the desirable embodiment that one group category and one channel category simplify a gestalt. Statistical information is independently held per group for every - channel with easy generalization to two or more groups, a channel category, or its both for a person skilled in the art, Since the determination of push filtering is made based on a using state to an object group - He will understand things.

[0040]The use or the preference information on a push object can be transmitted to the upper part from the level of a hierarchy's low rank using the PICS label of the 2nd kind called a user label (U-label). Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0041]- The value of a using state (usage) category:"using state" category shows by what frequency the object (inside of an object group) is referred to/accessed by the low order hierarchy. This categorical value is shown by "RV."

[0042]- The value of a preference category:"preference" category shows an object with the interest which a user specifies by profile specification. Profile information can be abolished if a user's interest stops changing and updating. This categorical value is shown by "PV."

[0043]The PICS label of the 3rd type called "staging" label (C-label) is used in order that performance information (a cash advance / staging information) may be transmitted and shared, when a proxy passes [an object] a hierarchy. Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0044]- Staging of the object is carried out within a superordinate category, or the value of a status category:"status" category shows the method of staging, or its both. This label is each upper level hierarchy, and it can be specified whether staging of the object is carried out.

When a contents hierarchy can use it, it can be shown further whether a categorical value carries out staging of which of all the documents and a summary.

[0045]The staging status of an object is shown by "valve flow coefficient." One of the methods which determines a CV value by arbitrary proxies is explained below. For example, a CV value can be determined as follows using the binary-value notation. In the case of the proxy of the n-th level, the CV value of the object passed caudad is provided with n bits, and it is set to 1, when the proxy of a level transmits an object for the inside of a hierarchy to the k-th bit (n-k) caudad and staging of the object is carried out. When that is not right, the k-th bit is set to 0. An object request can also be transmitted to the proxy of the level of the nearest higher rank with a high possibility of having carried out staging of the object, using staging status information, without requiring an object of the proxy of the level of a higher rank immediately.

[0046]The CV value of the object A is considered again with reference to drawing 1. Level 0 proxy (30) and level 2 proxy (40) carry out staging of the object A, and a level 1 proxy (35) presupposes them that staging of the object A has not been carried out. the CV value of the object A caudad passed to the level 3 proxy 50 -- this case -- "-- it is set to 101 or (binary value) 5 (decimal values). The CV values of the object A caudad passed to the proxy 35 object proxy 40 are "1" and "10", respectively. Also in the option which expresses staging status within a hierarchy, the person skilled in the art will understand a certain thing. Although it is simpler than this, there is a method of meaning whether the single bit is used as a method that accuracy is low, it shifted, and the proxy of that upper level carried out staging of the object. When a bit is one, the upper level proxy is carrying out staging of the object. When that is not right, no proxy of the upper level has carried out staging of the object.

[0047]The detailed example of the architecture of the proxy server of drawing 1 is shown in drawing 2. A proxy server as a custom CPU (200), a disk (205), The memory (207) for performing durability data or the magnetism a program / for code memory, an electron or an optical memory medium and the data based on CPU (200), a program, the dynamic access of the both, execution, or its both is included. Without deviating from the pneuma and the range of this invention, from a server besides a disk (205) and a network (25), one or more components instantiated in the memory (207) carry out direct access, and can perform maintenance, and the person skilled in the art will understand that it can distribute to two or more servers. Three major components of the proxy server materialized as desirable software which can be performed on CPU (200) are a push hair drier (220), a lack push object request hair drier (240), and a head demand hair drier (260). It explains in full detail below, referring to drawing 5, and 10 and 4 for these components, respectively.

[0048]A memory (207) includes the structure of others of shoes which want to relate to the function of this invention. Referring to drawing 8, cash (270) is maintained by each proxy node so that it may explain in full detail below. When a push is filtered, staging of the push object is carried out using cash. When requiring an object later, access time is shortened in this procedure. Note that cash can be extended to the lower level of memory hierarchies, such as a disk (205). Therefore, the cash advance or the object by which staging was carried out in a proxy can reside in every level of a hierarchy permanently. Referring to drawing 4, comprehensive User Information of the node of each following level is maintained as User Information 280 shows, and supports the determination of filtering so that it may explain in full detail below. Referring to drawing 8, the fixed object information 290 relevant to each object by which staging was carried out (UV etc.) is maintained for the determination of filtering so that it may explain in full detail below. Referring to drawing 10, this influences the determination of the back about whether the object by which staging was carried out is purged so that it may explain in full detail below.

[0049]The example of the proxy server logic provided with the function of this invention is shown in drawing 3. A proxy server will be in an input waiting state at Step 310 like a graphic display. At Step 315, treatment branches by the received input. When the received input is a push (from the following upper level), the push hair drier 320 is called at Step 320. The detailed example of a push hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 5. When the input received at Step 330 is a lack push object request, the lack push object request hair drier 240 is called at Step 335. The lack push object request hair drier 240 processes the demand from a lower level proxy (or client) about the object filtered by the upper level proxy node. The detailed example of a lack push object request hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 10. When the input received at Step 350 is a head demand (from a lower level proxy or a client), the head demand hair drier 260 is called at Step 360. The head demand hair drier 260 processes a HTTP head demand, and transmits User Information from a lower level proxy. The detailed example of a head demand hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 4. At Step 350, applicable miscellaneous hair driers (370), such as (the conventional HTTP "pull" demand or a FTP demand), are called about the input of other types which are not the objects of this invention.

[0050]The example of a head demand hair drier (260) is shown in drawing 4. Like a graphic display, a proxy confirms whether the head demand which received from the following lower level node i contains a user label (U-label) in a header at Step 410. U-label contains the using state and two categories of preference to which a related categorical value is expressed with RV and PV, respectively. About each of the following lower level node i , a proxy server maintains the using state and preference categorical value in $RV(i)$ of User Information (280), and $PV(i)$ in a memory, respectively. At Step 420, $RV(i)$ and $PV(i)$ are updated according to the value which the node i newly received. At Step 430, a proxy node maintains a comprehensive using state and a preference value (shown by RV_{node} and PV_{node} , respectively) over the node of all the following lower levels. When updating these two average methods, it is preferred to use the index method of averaging. if it says to details more -- PV_{node} -- the current value plus -- it is set as the decimal part of the difference of new $PV(i)$ and an old $PV(i)$ value. The decimal part of this example is 0.5. A RV_{node} value is set up similarly. Other information in a HTTP header can be processed at Step 440. This example is checking the "freshness degree" of an object, when an object is changed at the end.

[0051]The example of the push hair drier 220 is shown in drawing 5. When the objects pushed from the following level (higher rank) at Step 510 are all the objects like a graphic display, That is, not only in the case of a header but all the contents, a push object filtering routine is called at Step 515, and the filtering determination of a push to the following lower level node (one or more) is made. The detailed example of a push object filtering routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 6. In order to determine whether carry out staging of the object of this node

at Step 520, a staging determination routine is called. The detailed example of a staging determination routine is described about drawing 8. It is determined whether a push summary filtering routine called at Step 525, and push a summary to a lower level node at Step 510, when only summary information is pushed from an upper level proxy. The detailed example of a push summary filtering routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 7. A push running routine is called at Step 530, and a push to a lower level node is performed. The detailed example of a push running routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 11.

[0052]The example of a push object filtering routine is shown in drawing 6. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 610. The index variable i *****s at Step 610, when smaller than severalN of the node of the following lower level, the value of i *****s one time at Step 615, for example, and push decision variable $P(i)$ is initialized by 0. At Step 620, the urgency level of a push (UV) of an object is larger than an urgent push threshold (PTH), $PV(i)$ When larger than 0 (when two or more lower level users specify an interest by a profile etc. in an object), Push determination is chosen at Step 660 ($P(i)$ set as 1), and all the objects are pushed to the node i (see Step 1120 of drawing 11). When that is not right, at Step 630, the function (logic) ($RV(i)$, $PV(i)$, UV) F , i.e., the property of an object, (example: UV) and the function of the object user characteristic (example: $RV(i)$ and $PV(i)$) are called, and a filtering decision is made. When $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ is truth, Step 660 is performed, $P(i)$ is set as one, and all the objects are pushed to the node i . The simple example of $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ is a logical formula ($RV(i)UV > QTH$) (it is and ($PV(i) > 0$)). However, $QTH(s)$ are thresholds, such as one. More complicated F function is designed and the factor of the bandwidth of an object, size, or its both can be taken into consideration. For example, another $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ (it can express with the logical formula of and ($RV(i)UV > WTH$) ($PV(i) > 0$)). However, WTH is a threshold which increases with object size and decreases with available bandwidth. WTH can also take the expiration time of a document into consideration. Expiration time can set up this value low about a long object. At Step 640, the function (logic) ($RV(i)$, $PV(i)$) G is called and push summary determination is performed. The example of $G(RV(i), PV(i))$ is a logical formula ($RV(i) > 0$) (it is and ($PV(i) > 0$)). Like F function, more complicated G function can be designed and other factors, such as bandwidth, can be taken into consideration by the determination of a push server. At Step 650, $P(i)$ is set as 0.5 and a summary is pushed caudad to the node i .

[0053]The example of a push summary filtering routine is shown in drawing 7. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 710. The index variable i *****s at Step 720, and when smaller than severalN of the node of the following lower level, the value of i *****s one time at Step 730, for example. At Step 740, the function $G(RV(i), PV(i))$ is called and push summary determination is performed (this is the same function as the function called to Step 640). At Step 740, when G function is truth, $P(i)$ is set as 0.5 at Step 750, and a summary is pushed caudad to the node i (see Step 1140 of drawing 11).

[0054]The example of a staging determination routine is shown in drawing 8. The "staging urgency" factor of the object O is calculated at Step 810. This factor is expressed as CacheU (O). The example of the computational logic of the staging urgency of an object is explained in full detail below, referring to drawing 9. At Step 815, the value of CacheU (O) can be caudad adjusted based on the staging status of the object O in an upper level proxy. Staging status information is specified as the staging label (C-label) of a HTTP header. The objects O are some upper level proxy cash, and when staging has already been carried out, the necessity of carrying out staging of it by the present node decreases. When larger than 0, CacheU (O) at Step 820 at Step 830. It is judged whether it is used whether the amount of space (S) is occupied from the (1) object O by all the objects Oj with low staging urgency and (2) available, i.e., now. When it judges that S is larger than the size (O) of the object O at Step 840, it is shown that the CV value of the object O was updated at Step 850, and staging was carried out by the present node. If it says in detail, the original CV value can be doubled, can add 1 and can make it a new CV value. At Step 870, the object O is memorized by cash (270) and the value of valve flow coefficient relevant to an object, UV, and ChacheU is memorized by the object information (290) portion of a memory. The object O is exchangeable for other objects in which staging urgency has a lower value if needed. When the value of CacheU (O) is zero at Step 820, staging of the object is not carried out but it is shown that a CV value is updated and staging is not carried out by this proxy. 2 can be hung on the original CV value and, specifically, a new CV value can be acquired. C-label of an object takes the new CV value generated at Step 850 or Step 880, and shows the staging status at the time of an object being caudad pushed in the inside of a hierarchy (see Step 1100 of drawing 11).

[0055]The person skilled in the art will understand that various cash nest processings are possible, without deviating from the pneuma and the range of this invention. For example, even if there is no demand until now, staging of the object in a new category can be carried out by space variable units.

[0056]The example of the computational logic of the staging urgency of the object O is shown in drawing 9. The value CacheU of staging urgency (O) is initialized by 0 at Step 905. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 910. At Step 920, the index variable i is smaller than severalN of the node of the following lower level, and when push decision variable P(i) is not 1 at Step 930, only RV(i)UV(O) *****s CacheU (O) at Step 940. At Step 945, i *****s and processing returns to Step 920. In i>N, processing is ended at Step 920.

[0057]The example of a lack push object request hair drier (240) is shown in drawing 10. When the push object O is filtered and it is required from a lower level node after that, it is judged whether staging of the object O is carried out by the present node at Step 1005. When staging is carried out, an object is returned to the node which inserted the CV value in the C-label and was demanded at Step 1010. At Step 1020, the value of the staging urgency of the object O is

calculated again. When this value falls to zero at Step 1030 (the node of all the following lower levels with the interest on an object received the copy of that object), Or when something falls even to another default value or calculated value, staging of the object O is not carried out any longer at Step 1040. When staging of the object is not carried out at Step 1005, a demand is transmitted to upper level proxy server or contents transmitting origin at Step 1080.

[0058]The example of a push running routine is shown in drawing 11 (drawing 5, Step 530). The CV value of an object is inserted in C-label of a HTTP header at Step 1100 (from Step 850 or 880 of drawing 8). At Step 1120, the whole object O is pushed to the node of all the following lower levels with P(i) equal to one. At Step 1140, P(i) is pushed for the summary header of the object O by all the nodes of the level immediately under 0.5. At Step 1160, when a push to a certain node i is unsuccessful (access of a link, a node failure, or a mobile client is impossible), P(i) value is reset by zero. The staging determination routine (Step 520 of drawing 5) of the object O is checked. When a staging determination output does not perform staging of an object, since the staging determination routine (drawing 8) specified the set of new P(i) value, re-call appearance was carried out and a part of push went wrong, it determines whether carry out staging of the object now.

[0059]In the different model proxy server environment which is the conventional proxy where a part of proxy does not suit a filtering protocol, and it does not participate in collaboration, the person skilled in the art will understand that dynamic push filtering is effective.

[0060]The desirable embodiment of this invention has explained the general push filtering method of a Web server. However, the person skilled in the art will understand that the object for a push can apply this invention also to what kind provided with the same characteristic of situation, and it is not necessarily limited to the field of application of the Internet or WWW.

[0061]Although the desirable embodiment of this invention is co-operation push filtering accompanied by staging between a hierarchy's parent node and a child node, it can be easily fitted so that the collaboration between brother nodes may be included. For example, when staging of the object as which the proxy was required by the high order hierarchy has not been carried out, reference is possible from a proxy to a brother proxy. Including a brother node, it is **, and is not limited to this, but the staging determination of drawing 8 is easily adapted to the factor of the staging determination of the proxy node besides a hierarchy, and can be used for the staging determination.

[0062]As a conclusion, the following matters are indicated about the composition of this invention.

[0063](1) The pushed object is the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed after that in the proxy hierarchy to whom the inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad, A method containing the step which filters the object pushed after that based on the object using state information transmitted in the inside of a hierarchy with the step which transmits up in the using

state information relevant to the pushed object.

(2) The step which the pushed object is the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed in the proxy hierarchy to whom the inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad, synthesizes information, and are exchanged between nodes, A method containing the step which filters the pushed object based on the information synthesized and exchanged.

(3) A method given in the above (2) which contains further the step which transmits the meta information relevant to the object by which said filtering step was filtered.

(4) Completion of the success reverse side of a push to the lower level proxy / client which was filtering-determined and was chosen, A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on either of the staging determination by using state information and other proxy nodes in a hierarchy.

(5) A method given in the above (1) in which said step for which the pushed object filters the object pushed after that including the contents hierarchy of meta information contains further the step which transmits meta information for the inside of a proxy hierarchy caudad.

(6) A method given in the above (5) in which said step which transmits meta information contains further the step which carries out staging of the object filtered [inside / of a hierarchy] in short explanation of the object with the step which transmits caudad within a proxy hierarchy.

(7) Said step which carries out staging of the object. [which has the potential interest shown by the user profile] [whether all the low-ranking proxies or client nodes of the level received the object immediately, and] Or a method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which purges the object by which the staging urgency factor was less than predetermined and a calculation threshold, or staging was carried out after [the] either.

(8) A method given in the above (1) in which said filtering step contains further the step which specifies further the comprehensive using state and preference of an object by the low rank client node of all in a hierarchy which were pushed.

(9) A method given in the above (4) based on [an object is classified into an object group and] a former users request pattern in each object group's using state information.

(10) The step classified into the group from whom using state information differs said pushed object including a lower level proxy or the demand pattern of a client, The step which synthesizes using state information including a group division of the pushed object, and are exchanged between nodes, A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which filters the object pushed based on the grouping of the information synthesized and exchanged and the pushed object.

(11) A method given in the above (4) filtering determination or whose staging determination is a function of either bandwidth, an object property or the client characteristic.

(12) A method given in the above (11) in which the client characteristic includes a user profile

or preference information.

(13) A method given in the above (1) in which said filtering step is a function of an object urgency sign including further the step which relates with the object which had the object urgency sign pushed, and transmits the inside of a hierarchy caudad.

(14) A method given in the above (4) in which said staging step contains the step which carries out staging of the object on one or more levels of a contents hierarchy as a function of an urgency sign including further the step which relates an urgency sign with one or more different layer levels.

(15) A method given in the above (4) staging either [whose] said filtering step or a step is a function of object size.

(16) A method given in the above (4) said staging either [whose] said filtering step or step is a life of an object, or a function of expiration time.

(17) A method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which transmits to the object which said staging step was answered [object] and had the staging status of the pushed object pushed.

(18) A method given in the above (4) whose proxy hierarchy contains the different-species proxy hierarchy of said filtering step and said staging step by whom ** is someday performed depending on no servers in a hierarchy.

(19) Create a PICS using state label and the step with which the comprehensive using state information on a proxy hierarchy's lower level is expressed using a PICS categorical value is included further, A method given in the above (2) in which said transmission step contains the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for comprehensive using state information up using a PICS using state label.

(20) The step which creates a PICS staging label and with which the staging status of the object in a proxy hierarchy's given level by which staging was carried out is expressed using a PICS categorical value, A method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for staging status caudad using a PICS staging label.

(21) A method given in the above (4) which creates a PICS push label and contains further the step showing the urgency sign of the object pushed using the PICS categorical value, and the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for an urgency sign caudad using a PICS push label.

(22) A method given in any 1 paragraph of the above (1) which transmits information for the inside of a hierarchy using a meta information protocol thru/or (3), (5), (6), (9) to (10), (14) to (15), (19) to (20), or (21).

(23) A method given in any 1 paragraph of the above (1) which transmits information for the inside of a hierarchy using a PISC protocol thru/or (3), (5), (6), (9) to (10), (14) to (15), (19) to (20), or (21).

(24) A method given in the above (4) which creates a PICS push label and contains further the step showing the summary of the object pushed using the PICS categorical value, and the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for a summary caudad using a PICS push label.

(25) A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on the staging determination about the proxy node besides a hierarchy.

(26) In the proxy hierarchy by whom the inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to the stream of the pushed object, How to be the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed after that, and contain the step which attaches notes of meta information to a push stream, and the step which answers the aforementioned notes attachment step and filters one or more pushed objects.

(27) A method given in the above (6) which will change it if staging either filtering determination or determination differs in a contents hierarchy's level.

[Translation done.]

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TECHNICAL FIELD

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the improved data processing system. The specific mode of this invention is related with the dynamic push (or simultaneous transmissive communication) filtering method which sends an object or a document within the hierarchy of a proxy server. The still more specific mode of this invention is related with the procedure which pushes Webobject to World Wide Web (WWW).

[0002]The following glossary will also be useful although a part of term used on glossary book specifications has a meaning which a dictionary has.

[0003]The network which consists of the network and gateway which use the TCP/IP protocol of an Internet series.

[0004]A client client is a computer which publishes a command to a server and performs the task corresponding to the command.

[0005]The arbitrary computers which perform a task according to the command of a computer besides a server are servers. A Web server usually supports one or more clients.

[0006]World Wide Web (WWW or web)

Application of the Internet for looking for information on the Internet switch between servers and between databases by clicking words and phrases (hyperlink) with the language by which highlighting was carried out, or concern. The Internet WWW server supports a client and provides information. All the resources can be addressed as URL, and the web can display the information corresponding to URL using HTML, and can consider that it is the Internet which provides the interface by the point and click to other URL.

[0007]Universal resource locator (URL)

A method for identifying or addressing the information on the Internet uniquely. The web document version or the file name which is thoroughly qualified of an E-mail address. It is accessible with Haar Per Rink in these. One example of URL is "http://www.philipyu.com:80 / table.html." URL is provided with four ingredients here. The protocol used at first is specified

starting with the left, and it dissociates by the remaining locator and ":". The 2nd is a target host's host name or IP address. As for this, left-hand side is "/" and right-hand side is divided by ":" as "/" or option. A port number is option, left-hand side is divided by a host name and ":", and right-hand side is divided by "." The 4th ingredient is a actual file name or a program name. This example shows that the extension of ".html" is an HTML file.

[0008]HyperText Markup Language (HTML)

HTML is a language which a Web server uses, in order to connect at other web documents which create a document and can especially be perused from a web client (with hyperlink course).

[0009]HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP or http)

HTTP is an example of the non-state protocol meaning all the demands to a server from a client being treated independently. A server does not have record of former connection. It is shown that "http:" in the beginning of URL communicates using HTTP about the resources of specification of a request source client and a target server.

[0010]The KURAFIKARU interface which performs Internet Protocol, such as an Internet browser or web browser http, and displays the result on a user's screen. The browser can function as a tour guide of the Internet provided with the desktop screen, directory, and retrieving tool which are used when a user does "surfing" of the Internet. In this example of application, a web browser is client service which communicates with World Wide Web.

[0011]Client cash client cash is usually used as a level 1 cache for objects which a client accesses. In the WWW environment, client cash is usually carried out by the web browser, and the non-durability cash which carries out cash of the object into the present call may be sufficient as it, and it can also carry out cash of the object ranging over two or more calls.

[0012]The dedicated server in a network which works as an agent for a cash advance proxy client, and finds the copy to which cash of the object was carried out. Since a cash advance proxy is called as a result of the cache miss from client cash, it usually operates as cash of the level beyond the secondary it.

[0013]HTTP demon (HTTPD)

A server provided with a HyperText Transfer Protocol and a common gateway interface function. HTTPD is usually supported by the access agent who provides accesses to the Internet, such as hardware connection, TCP/IP coupling, etc. to a machine on intranet.

[0014]The traffic volume on the Internet is also increasing in connection with a popular rapid rise of World Wide Web (WWW or web). As a result, a web is a primary bottleneck of a network performance. When there is a demand of a document or information from the user connected to the server via the low speed network link, in a user end, it must be ready for remarkable waiting time. The alternate method for avoiding the time and effort of waiting for the demanded document for a long time although "pull" is carried out, While the document

applicable to a content provider becomes usable, it is the method of "making pushing to a user based on user preference or a profile specified beforehand" a document.

[0015]It is tended from a network to overflow this push method. Since a user's preference specification tends to become unsuitable, this happens owing to too much many documents being pushed at a user's origin.

[0016]In the conventional "pull" method, one method of reducing the waiting time of access is carrying out cash of the copy of information familiar to popular document or user, and the waiting time of access from there becomes shorter. This cash advance can be carried out on various points on a network. For example, in a big university and company, there is an original local cache and all the users whom the network joined may be able to take out a document from there. The dedicated server called the cash advance proxy which can operate as an agent for a client depending on the case is carried out in a network, in order to find the copy to which cash of the document was carried out. Usually, since the cash advance proxy relates only to the cache miss from client (1st order) cash, it operates as cash of the level beyond the secondary it. Client cash is usually a part of web browser, and can memorize the document which memorizes the object accessed into the present call (non-durability cash which is carried out by Mosaic), or was accessed ranging over two or more calls.

[0017]Generally, the hierarchy of a proxy is constituted by a client and the server (one or more). In a computer network, one or more project proxies, section proxies, site proxies, etc. exist. The service provider of the Internet can carry out a proxy by one or more, such as each neighborhood, each low rank area, and an every place region. A client, a proxy, or its both form a cash advance hierarchy. In a strict hierarchy, if a cache miss arises (client), a proxy will require a hierarchy's object immediately missing from the upper level via a cash advance proxy interface like the HTTP interface used in CERN HTTP cash. These days, it can ask more a "brother" or "neighboring" cash in HARVEST at the time of a cache miss (C. M. Brown (Brown) others). "Harvest : Refer to 94 or A Scalable, Customizable Discovery and Access System" University of Colorado, computer science part, and technical report CU-CS-732-1994.

Regardless of the object by which the cash advance was carried out by the proxy of others [case / any / determination / of a cash advance], it is carried out by each local proxy. In other words, determination of a cash advance is performed only as a function of the contents of a local cache, the object characteristic, or its both.

[Translation done.]

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TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]As mentioned above, filtering and the proxy server of a push base are developed, and the system based on the actual using state of a viewer is required. The system and the method that staging determination is performed based on the result of push filtering determination and a push activity are required. It is necessary to employ a proxy hierarchy more effectively between proxy servers by the transmission and reception or exchange of information between a contents server and a client. This invention relates to the above-mentioned necessity.

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MEANS

[Means for Solving the Problem]This invention is aimed at a method and a system which filter push information on a client server hierarchy based on actual use information if needed [above]. The using state information can contain actual object reference/access pattern. The staging cash manager can make rapid access possible, when it carries out by a server (one or more) and a filtered object is required later.

[0020]A method provided with a function by this invention which filters dynamically an object pushed in a proxy hierarchy by whom inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to a pushed object, A step which filters an object pushed based on object use information transmitted in inside of a hierarchy a step which transmits up, and after that in use information relevant to a pushed object is included.

[0021]Another mode of this invention contains an addition step which synthesizes information and are exchanged between nodes, and an addition step which filters a pushed object based on information synthesized and exchanged. This filtering step can contain a step which transmits meta information relevant to an object filtered further.

[0022]Completion of the success reverse side of a push to the lower level proxy / client which another mode of this invention was filtering-determined and was chosen, A step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on either of the staging determination by using state information and other proxy nodes in a hierarchy is included. Cash can be more effectively managed by a proxy server's purging timely an object by which staging was carried out, and reducing redundant staging of an object with other functions.

[0023]In another mode of this invention, a step to which a pushed object filters an object pushed after that including a contents hierarchy of meta information contains further a step which transmits meta information for inside of a proxy hierarchy caudad.

[0024]In another mode of this invention, push filtering includes determination of a push with a contents level. It is possible for determination of filtering to push only a title or a summary (not

being the whole contents) to some nodes of a hierarchy of the following level (low rank). Thus, determination of filtering is possible on a content level which whether a node of a level of next throat (low rank) not only receives a push but each node receives. Determination of filtering to a node of the following level (low rank) can be based on synthesis information of a using state of all the users under a node of the following level (low rank).

[0025] In another mode of this invention, inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to a stream of a pushed object, A method of filtering dynamically an object pushed after that contains a step which attaches notes of meta information to a push stream, and a step which filters one or more objects which answered a step of notes attachment and were pushed.

[0026] In another mode of this invention, various kinds of information can be transmitted by Internet environment using a PICS protocol. First, using PICS, a content provider or a proxy node of an upper level attaches notes to an object, namely, can specify the characteristic of information about a push object. This information can contain all transmitting agency channels (discernment) of a summary of urgency of a push object or a priority, and object contents or a title, a group classification, or a push, or these. A using state of preference information on a push object can be transmitted [2nd] to the upper part from a hierarchy's lower level using PICS. Using state information based on an object group classification and user preference can be included in this. Inside of a hierarchy can be transmitted [3rd] for a staging state of each object by which staging was carried out (some or all of high order hierarchies) below using PICS. In this case, a PICS protocol can be generalized and exchange or transmission of information can be performed over the whole hierarchy. If it says to details more, these information of various kinds of is memorizable to a header of an object using a PICS protocol. A PICS label new about each information type can be defined, and a PICS categorical value can be made to correspond to a specific situation. The lower level server (or client) can interpret a PICS categorical value, and can increase the efficiency of a push or determination of staging.

[0027]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The whole hierarchy architecture of the proxy server provided with the function of this invention is shown in drawing 1. As shown in a figure, a client (600...603) is connectable with the Internet (25) via the hierarchy (level 0 ... level 3) of a proxy server (30...55). When it says only within this example, the proxy hierarchy of a graphic display contains the proxy server of four levels. Any number of a proxy hierarchy's levels are not cared about, but a client (600...603) will understand that it is actually connectable with every level of the, if it is a person skilled in the art. The proxy (30) of a record level (level 0) is connected to the Internet. As for the proxy of level 1, those with two (35 and 37) and one level 1 proxy 35 are connected to the proxy (40 and 43) of the level 2. Subsequently to the proxy (40, 35, 30) of the levels 2, 1, and 0, the client 603 is combined with the proxy (50) of the level (level 3)

immediately on it. The client can access various websites (20) via the Internet (25). Since a client manages staging and User Information, it can have a client proxy of itself. The hierarchy of a proxy server will also understand that one client (600) and a single proxy server can be included, if he is a person skilled in the art.

[0028]If it sees from a client (603), a certain kind of proxy (55, 43, and 37) is not a part of the proxy hierarchy. He will understand the proxy of a lower level, if it is a person skilled in the art about the ability to communicate to the proxy of other upper levels of the direct Internet, although a typical communication path is a proxy course of an upper level immediately.

[0029]In the conventional proxy hierarchy, an object is caudad pushed after reception of the pushed object to the proxy of the following level (low rank). On the other hand, in "pull" demand by the object which cannot be used locally, the demand of a lack object is given to a push of the following upper level. When an upper level proxy carries out staging of the object before, this proxy passes an object caudad. When that is not right, this proxy tends to obtain an object from an upper level proxy. The inputted object is caudad passed to the proxy of the following lower level which is demanding the object.

[0030]Note that drawing 1 is a figure showing only the logical connection showing the flow of an object and the information on a demand. This figure is not a physical-connection figure. Logical connection may change by physical events, such as a workload, a node or a link fault. If the types of an object differ, the logical paths which reach to a user may also differ.

[0031]If it surveys, the server (30...50) of this invention will push a push object and the information about the determination of the staging to the proxy of the following level (low rank) with an object. Not only the determination of staging of itself but the determination (one or more) of the whole high order hierarchy's staging can actually be passed caudad.

[0032]This invention is further provided with the function for transmitting information to a hierarchy's method of the upper and lower sides efficiently. When carrying out http, information exchange can be included in an object header using the existing web protocol. PICS ("platform for Internet-contents selection") specifies how to transmit the meta information about electronic content. PICS is web consortium protocol advice (see <http://www.w3.org/PICS>). Since PICS was promoted in the evaluation label of a value base, such as "what quantity of nudity (nudity) is related with these contents", it was used for the first time, but a format and meaning of meta information are completely common. In PICS, according to the source of generation and schedule using state of "evaluation service" or information, the group division of the meta information of electronic content is carried out, and arbitrary numbers of the categories or dimensions of information can be transmitted in one of groups. There is the range of the value allowed in each category, and a value single [a specific category] about the specific contents of one affair or multiple can be taken. The meta information group (known as a "PICS label") can include expiration information. The function applied to two or more

electronic content also has PICS. The PICS label of the specific electronic content of one affair can be independently deleted from an addition or there to contents.

[0033]For example, an image file can be transmitted to the server which attached the single PICS label in which it is shown that the "evaluation service" field contains the evaluation label of a value base according to the "Safesurf" assessment system. According to this invention, when an image file carries out company proxy passage, it can receive the 2nd PICS label in which it is shown that the "evaluation service" field includes proxy staging information. When passing a section proxy, the 2nd PICS label can be stripped. Thus, refer only to the 1st PICS label for a client computer. The http protocol is reinforcing the request header and response header which support PICS. It is taking into consideration that the technical organization which specifies other common application protocols, such as NNTP, also adds a PICS support. As a part of such a protocol, the list of types of a desired PICS label can also be included by demand. PICS has specified the reference format which receives PICS information from a central label office server. The example of a PICS label is (PICS-1.1

"http://the.rating.service"label for" http://the.content"exp"1997.07.01T08:15-0500" r (n4s3v210)), A transmission name various meta information type and the application possible value of these contents of "n", "s", "v", and "l" are 4 (in the case of n), 3 (in the case of s), 2 (in the case of v), and 0 (in the case of l) here. Probably, only the software which recognizes ID "http://the.rating.service" will be possible for the interpretation of these categories and a value.

[0034]According to a desirable embodiment, three different PICS labels are used. The proxy of a content provider or an upper level uses the PICS label of the 1st kind called a push label or (P-label), and it specifies notes attachment of an object, i.e., the characteristic of a push object, or specifies the information about it. Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0035]- The value of an urgency category:"urgency" category shows the urgency which pushes an object caudad. "UV" is defined as the categorical value.

[0036]- The value of a summary category:"summary" category shows the short summary of a push object / document. In a more common case, one object can be specified on two or more detailed levels. This contents hierarchy can consist of the three or more above-mentioned levels (full contents and summary). For example, another title level can be included. In the case of a news object, titles, such as a summary of "the terrorist devised the bomb in the shopping center and the binary name died" and "explosion of a bomb" which are all the contents of news, can be included. The contents level of additions, such as a title, can be specified with P-label using another category of the contents level of each addition. There is a "title" category of an object title in this example. An urgent categorical value which is different from all the objects (namely, all the contents) is made also as for specification to a summary category. For example, a higher urgency categorical value can be specified as a summary.

[0037]- The value of a group category:"group" category shows the classification of an object. For example, in the case of the simultaneous transmissive communication of an in-house newsletter, the typical group categorical value can include a "company", "HR", a "section", a "competitor", etc. The 1st purpose of introducing a group category is for a group category to enable it to collect User Information (the following paragraph explains), and to enable a push by a group category.

[0038]- The value of a channel category:"channel" category shows a simultaneous transmissive communication channel or a contents transmission source. For example, they are an internal enterprise channel or an external channel which can be used from Pointcast and Inc. with the trademark of POINTCAST (<http://www.pointcast.com>). A different channel can be provided with a different group category.

[0039]It is discussed by the desirable embodiment that one group category and one channel category simplify a gestalt. Statistical information is independently held per group for every - channel with easy generalization to two or more groups, a channel category, or its both for a person skilled in the art, Since the determination of push filtering is made based on a using state to an object group - He will understand things.

[0040]The use or the preference information on a push object can be transmitted to the upper part from the level of a hierarchy's low rank using the PICS label of the 2nd kind called a user label (U-label). Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0041]- The value of a using state (usage) category:"using state" category shows by what frequency the object (inside of an object group) is referred to/accessed by the low order hierarchy. This categorical value is shown by "RV."

[0042]- The value of a preference category:"preference" category shows an object with the interest which a user specifies by profile specification. Profile information can be abolished if a user's interest stops changing and updating. This categorical value is shown by "PV."

[0043]The PICS label of the 3rd type called "staging" label (C-label) is used in order that performance information (a cash advance / staging information) may be transmitted and shared, when a proxy passes [an object] a hierarchy. Although this label can include any combination of the following category, it is not limited only to it.

[0044]- Staging of the object is carried out within a superordinate category, or the value of a status category:"status" category shows the method of staging, or its both. This label is each upper level hierarchy, and it can be specified whether staging of the object is carried out. When a contents hierarchy can use it, it can be shown further whether a categorical value carries out staging of which of all the documents and a summary.

[0045]The staging status of an object is shown by "valve flow coefficient." One of the methods which determines a CV value by arbitrary proxies is explained below. For example, a CV value

can be determined as follows using the binary-value notation. In the case of the proxy of the n-th level, the CV value of the object passed caudad is provided with n bits, and it is set to 1, when the proxy of a level transmits an object for the inside of a hierarchy to the k-th bit (n-k) caudad and staging of the object is carried out. When that is not right, the k-th bit is set to 0. An object request can also be transmitted to the proxy of the level of the nearest higher rank with a high possibility of having carried out staging of the object, using staging status information, without requiring an object of the proxy of the level of a higher rank immediately. [0046]The CV value of the object A is considered again with reference to drawing 1. Level 0 proxy (30) and level 2 proxy (40) carry out staging of the object A, and a level 1 proxy (35) presupposes them that staging of the object A has not been carried out. the CV value of the object A caudad passed to the level 3 proxy 50 -- this case -- "-- it is set to 101 or (binary value) 5 (decimal values). The CV values of the object A caudad passed to the proxy 35 object proxy 40 are "1" and "10", respectively. Also in the option which expresses staging status within a hierarchy, the person skilled in the art will understand a certain thing. Although it is simpler than this, there is a method of meaning whether the single bit is used as a method that accuracy is low, it shifted, and the proxy of that upper level carried out staging of the object. When a bit is one, the upper level proxy is carrying out staging of the object. When that is not right, no proxy of the upper level has carried out staging of the object.

[0047]The detailed example of the architecture of the proxy server of drawing 1 is shown in drawing 2. A proxy server as a custom CPU (200), a disk (205), The memory (207) for performing durability data or the magnetism a program / for code memory, an electron or an optical memory medium and the data based on CPU (200), a program, the dynamic access of the both, execution, or its both is included. Without deviating from the pneuma and the range of this invention, from a server besides a disk (205) and a network (25), one or more components instantiated in the memory (207) carry out direct access, and can perform maintenance, and the person skilled in the art will understand that it can distribute to two or more servers. Three major components of the proxy server materialized as desirable software which can be performed on CPU (200) are a push hair drier (220), a lack push object request hair drier (240), and a head demand hair drier (260). It explains in full detail below, referring to drawing 5, and 10 and 4 for these components, respectively.

[0048]A memory (207) includes the structure of others of shoes which want to relate to the function of this invention. Referring to drawing 8, cash (270) is maintained by each proxy node so that it may explain in full detail below. When a push is filtered, staging of the push object is carried out using cash. When requiring an object later, access time is shortened in this procedure. Note that cash can be extended to the lower level of memory hierarchies, such as a disk (205). Therefore, the cash advance or the object by which staging was carried out in a proxy can reside in every level of a hierarchy permanently. Referring to drawing 4,

comprehensive User Information of the node of each following level is maintained as User Information 280 shows, and supports the determination of filtering so that it may explain in full detail below. Referring to drawing 8, the fixed object information 290 relevant to each object by which staging was carried out (UV etc.) is maintained for the determination of filtering so that it may explain in full detail below. Referring to drawing 10, this influences the determination of the back about whether the object by which staging was carried out is purged so that it may explain in full detail below.

[0049]The example of the proxy server logic provided with the function of this invention is shown in drawing 3. A proxy server will be in an input waiting state at Step 310 like a graphic display. At Step 315, treatment branches by the received input. When the received input is a push (from the following upper level), the push hair drier 320 is called at Step 320. The detailed example of a push hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 5. When the input received at Step 330 is a lack push object request, the lack push object request hair drier 240 is called at Step 335. The lack push object request hair drier 240 processes the demand from a lower level proxy (or client) about the object filtered by the upper level proxy node. The detailed example of a lack push object request hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 10. When the input received at Step 350 is a head demand (from a lower level proxy or a client), the head demand hair drier 260 is called at Step 360. The head demand hair drier 260 processes a HTTP head demand, and transmits User Information from a lower level proxy. The detailed example of a head demand hair drier is mentioned later, referring to drawing 4. At Step 350, applicable miscellaneous hair driers (370), such as (the conventional HTTP "pull" demand or a FTP demand), are called about the input of other types which are not the objects of this invention.

[0050]The example of a head demand hair drier (260) is shown in drawing 4. Like a graphic display, a proxy confirms whether the head demand which received from the following lower level node i contains a user label (U-label) in a header at Step 410. U-label contains the using state and two categories of preference to which a related categorical value is expressed with RV and PV, respectively. About each of the following lower level node i, a proxy server maintains the using state and preference categorical value in RV(i) of User Information (280), and PV(i) in a memory, respectively. At Step 420, RV(i) and PV(i) are updated according to the value which the node i newly received. At Step 430, a proxy node maintains a comprehensive using state and a preference value (shown by RVnode and PVnode, respectively) over the node of all the following lower levels. When updating these two average methods, it is preferred to use the index method of averaging. if it says to details more -- PVnode -- the current value plus -- it is set as the decimal part of the difference of new PV(i) and an old PV(i) value. The decimal part of this example is 0.5. A RVnode value is set up similarly. Other information in a HTTP header can be processed at Step 440. This example is checking the

"freshness degree" of an object, when an object is changed at the end.

[0051]The example of the push hair drier 220 is shown in drawing 5. When the objects pushed from the following level (higher rank) at Step 510 are all the objects like a graphic display, That is, not only in the case of a header but all the contents, a push object filtering routine is called at Step 515, and the filtering determination of a push to the following lower level node (one or more) is made. The detailed example of a push object filtering routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 6. In order to determine whether carry out staging of the object of this node at Step 520, a staging determination routine is called. The detailed example of a staging determination routine is described about drawing 8. It is determined whether a push summary filtering routine called at Step 525, and push a summary to a lower level node at Step 510, when only summary information is pushed from an upper level proxy. The detailed example of a push summary filtering routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 7. A push running routine is called at Step 530, and a push to a lower level node is performed. The detailed example of a push running routine is mentioned later, referring to drawing 11.

[0052]The example of a push object filtering routine is shown in drawing 6. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 610. The index variable i is incremented at Step 610, when smaller than several N of the node of the following lower level, the value of i is incremented one time at Step 615, for example, and push decision variable $P(i)$ is initialized by 0. At Step 620, the urgency level of a push (UV) of an object is larger than an urgent push threshold (PTH), $PV(i)$ When larger than 0 (when two or more lower level users specify an interest by a profile etc. in an object), Push determination is chosen at Step 660 ($P(i)$ set as 1), and all the objects are pushed to the node i (see Step 1120 of drawing 11). When that is not right, at Step 630, the function (logic) ($RV(i)$, $PV(i)$, UV) F , i.e., the property of an object, (example: UV) and the function of the object user characteristic (example: $RV(i)$ and $PV(i)$) are called, and a filtering decision is made. When $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ is truth, Step 660 is performed, $P(i)$ is set as one, and all the objects are pushed to the node i . The simple example of $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ is a logical formula $(RV(i)UV > QTH)$ (it is and $(PV(i) > 0)$). However, $QTH(s)$ are thresholds, such as one. More complicated F function is designed and the factor of the bandwidth of an object, size, or its both can be taken into consideration. For example, another $F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)$ (it can express with the logical formula of and $(RV(i)UV > WTH)$ ($PV(i) > 0$)). However, WTH is a threshold which increases with object size and decreases with available bandwidth. WTH can also take the expiration time of a document into consideration. Expiration time can set up this value low about a long object. At Step 640, the function (logic) ($RV(i)$, $PV(i)$) G is called and push summary determination is performed. The example of $G(RV(i), PV(i))$ is a logical formula $(RV(i) > 0)$ (it is and $(PV(i) > 0)$). Like F function, more complicated G function can be designed and other factors, such as bandwidth, can be taken into consideration by the determination of a push server. At Step 650, $P(i)$ is set as 0.5 and a summary is pushed caudad to the node i .

[0053]The example of a push summary filtering routine is shown in drawing 7. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 710. The index variable i *****s at Step 720, and when smaller than severalN of the node of the following lower level, the value of i *****s one time at Step 730, for example. At Step 740, the function $G(RV(i), PV(i))$ is called and push summary determination is performed (this is the same function as the function called to Step 640). At Step 740, when G function is truth, $P(i)$ is set as 0.5 at Step 750, and a summary is pushed caudad to the node i (see Step 1140 of drawing 11).

[0054]The example of a staging determination routine is shown in drawing 8. The "staging urgency" factor of the object O is calculated at Step 810. This factor is expressed as $CacheU(O)$. The example of the computational logic of the staging urgency of an object is explained in full detail below, referring to drawing 9. At Step 815, the value of $CacheU(O)$ can be caudad adjusted based on the staging status of the object O in an upper level proxy. Staging status information is specified as the staging label (C-label) of a HTTP header. The objects O are some upper level proxy cash, and when staging has already been carried out, the necessity of carrying out staging of it by the present node decreases. When larger than 0, $CacheU(O)$ at Step 820 at Step 830. It is judged whether it is used whether the amount of space (S) is occupied from the (1) object O by all the objects O_j with low staging urgency and (2) available, i.e., now. When it judges that S is larger than the size (O) of the object O at Step 840, it is shown that the CV value of the object O was updated at Step 850, and staging was carried out by the present node. If it says in detail, the original CV value can be doubled, can add 1 and can make it a new CV value. At Step 870, the object O is memorized by cash (270) and the value of valve flow coefficient relevant to an object, UV, and $ChacheU$ is memorized by the object information (290) portion of a memory. The object O is exchangeable for other objects in which staging urgency has a lower value if needed. When the value of $CacheU(O)$ is zero at Step 820, staging of the object is not carried out but it is shown that a CV value is updated and staging is not carried out by this proxy. 2 can be hung on the original CV value and, specifically, a new CV value can be acquired. C-label of an object takes the new CV value generated at Step 850 or Step 880, and shows the staging status at the time of an object being caudad pushed in the inside of a hierarchy (see Step 1100 of drawing 11).

[0055]The person skilled in the art will understand that various cash nest processings are possible, without deviating from the pneuma and the range of this invention. For example, even if there is no demand until now, staging of the object in a new category can be carried out by space variable units.

[0056]The example of the computational logic of the staging urgency of the object O is shown in drawing 9. The value $CacheU$ of staging urgency (O) is initialized by 0 at Step 905. The index variable i is initialized by 0 at Step 910. At Step 920, the index variable i is smaller than severalN of the node of the following lower level, and when push decision variable $P(i)$ is not 1

at Step 930, only RV(i)UV(O) *****s CacheU (O) at Step 940. At Step 945, i *****s and processing returns to Step 920. In i>N, processing is ended at Step 920.

[0057]The example of a lack push object request hair drier (240) is shown in drawing 10. When the push object O is filtered and it is required from a lower level node after that, it is judged whether staging of the object O is carried out by the present node at Step 1005. When staging is carried out, an object is returned to the node which inserted the CV value in the C-label and was demanded at Step 1010. At Step 1020, the value of the staging urgency of the object O is calculated again. When this value falls to zero at Step 1030 (the node of all the following lower levels with the interest on an object received the copy of that object), Or when something falls even to another default value or calculated value, staging of the object O is not carried out any longer at Step 1040. When staging of the object is not carried out at Step 1005, a demand is transmitted to upper level proxy server or contents transmitting origin at Step 1080.

[0058]The example of a push running routine is shown in drawing 11 (drawing 5, Step 530). The CV value of an object is inserted in C-label of a HTTP header at Step 1100 (from Step 850 or 880 of drawing 8). At Step 1120, the whole object O is pushed to the node of all the following lower levels with P(i) equal to one. At Step 1140, P(i) is pushed for the summary header of the object O by all the nodes of the level immediately under 0.5. At Step 1160, when a push to a certain node i is unsuccessful (access of a link, a node failure, or a mobile client is impossible), P(i) value is reset by zero. The staging determination routine (Step 520 of drawing 5) of the object O is checked. When a staging determination output does not perform staging of an object, since the staging determination routine (drawing 8) specified the set of new P(i) value, re-call appearance was carried out and a part of push went wrong, it determines whether carry out staging of the object now.

[0059]In the different model proxy server environment which is the conventional proxy where a part of proxy does not suit a filtering protocol, and it does not participate in collaboration, the person skilled in the art will understand that dynamic push filtering is effective.

[0060]The desirable embodiment of this invention has explained the general push filtering method of a Web server. However, the person skilled in the art will understand that the object for a push can apply this invention also to what kind provided with the same characteristic of situation, and it is not necessarily limited to the field of application of the Internet or WWW.

[0061]Although the desirable embodiment of this invention is co-operation push filtering accompanied by staging between a hierarchy's parent node and a child node, it can be easily fitted so that the collaboration between brother nodes may be included. For example, when staging of the object as which the proxy was required by the high order hierarchy has not been carried out, reference is possible from a proxy to a brother proxy. Including a brother node, it is **, and is not limited to this, but the staging determination of drawing 8 is easily adapted to the factor of the staging determination of the proxy node besides a hierarchy, and can be used for

the staging determination.

[0062]As a conclusion, the following matters are indicated about the composition of this invention.

[0063](1) The pushed object is the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed after that in the proxy hierarchy to whom the inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad, A method containing the step which filters the object pushed after that based on the object using state information transmitted in the inside of a hierarchy with the step which transmits up in the using state information relevant to the pushed object.

(2) The step which the pushed object is the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed in the proxy hierarchy to whom the inside of a hierarchy is transmitted caudad, synthesizes information, and are exchanged between nodes, A method containing the step which filters the pushed object based on the information synthesized and exchanged.

(3) A method given in the above (2) which contains further the step which transmits the meta information relevant to the object by which said filtering step was filtered.

(4) Completion of the success reverse side of a push to the lower level proxy / client which was filtering-determined and was chosen, A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on either of the staging determination by using state information and other proxy nodes in a hierarchy.

(5) A method given in the above (1) in which said step for which the pushed object filters the object pushed after that including the contents hierarchy of meta information contains further the step which transmits meta information for the inside of a proxy hierarchy caudad.

(6) A method given in the above (5) in which said step which transmits meta information contains further the step which carries out staging of the object filtered [inside / of a hierarchy] in short explanation of the object with the step which transmits caudad within a proxy hierarchy.

(7) Said step which carries out staging of the object. [which has the potential interest shown by the user profile] [whether all the low-ranking proxies or client nodes of the level received the object immediately, and] Or a method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which purges the object by which the staging urgency factor was less than predetermined and a calculation threshold, or staging was carried out after [the] either.

(8) A method given in the above (1) in which said filtering step contains further the step which specifies further the comprehensive using state and preference of an object by the low rank client node of all in a hierarchy which were pushed.

(9) A method given in the above (4) based on [an object is classified into an object group and] a former users request pattern in each object group's using state information.

(10) The step classified into the group from whom using state information differs said pushed object including a lower level proxy or the demand pattern of a client, The step which

synthesizes using state information including a group division of the pushed object, and are exchanged between nodes, A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which filters the object pushed based on the grouping of the information synthesized and exchanged and the pushed object.

(11) A method given in the above (4) filtering determination or whose staging determination is a function of either bandwidth, an object property or the client characteristic.

(12) A method given in the above (11) in which the client characteristic includes a user profile or preference information.

(13) A method given in the above (1) in which said filtering step is a function of an object urgency sign including further the step which relates with the object which had the object urgency sign pushed, and transmits the inside of a hierarchy caudad.

(14) A method given in the above (4) in which said staging step contains the step which carries out staging of the object on one or more levels of a contents hierarchy as a function of an urgency sign including further the step which relates an urgency sign with one or more different layer levels.

(15) A method given in the above (4) staging either [whose] said filtering step or a step is a function of object size.

(16) A method given in the above (4) said staging either [whose] said filtering step or step is a life of an object, or a function of expiration time.

(17) A method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which transmits to the object which said staging step was answered [object] and had the staging status of the pushed object pushed.

(18) A method given in the above (4) whose proxy hierarchy contains the different-species proxy hierarchy of said filtering step and said staging step by whom ** is someday performed depending on no servers in a hierarchy.

(19) Create a PICS using state label and the step with which the comprehensive using state information on a proxy hierarchy's lower level is expressed using a PICS categorical value is included further, A method given in the above (2) in which said transmission step contains the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for comprehensive using state information up using a PICS using state label.

(20) The step which creates a PICS staging label and with which the staging status of the object in a proxy hierarchy's given level by which staging was carried out is expressed using a PICS categorical value, A method given in the above (4) which contains further the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for staging status caudad using a PICS staging label.

(21) A method given in the above (4) which creates a PICS push label and contains further the step showing the urgency sign of the object pushed using the PICS categorical value, and the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for an urgency sign caudad using a PICS push

label.

(22) A method given in any 1 paragraph of the above (1) which transmits information for the inside of a hierarchy using a meta information protocol thru/or (3), (5), (6), (9) to (10), (14) to (15), (19) to (20), or (21).

(23) A method given in any 1 paragraph of the above (1) which transmits information for the inside of a hierarchy using a PISC protocol thru/or (3), (5), (6), (9) to (10), (14) to (15), (19) to (20), or (21).

(24) A method given in the above (4) which creates a PICS push label and contains further the step showing the summary of the object pushed using the PICS categorical value, and the step which transmits the inside of a hierarchy for a summary caudad using a PICS push label.

(25) A method given in the above (1) which contains further the step which performs adaptation staging of an object based on the staging determination about the proxy node besides a hierarchy.

(26) In the proxy hierarchy by whom the inside of a hierarchy is caudad transmitted to the stream of the pushed object, How to be the method of filtering dynamically the object pushed after that, and contain the step which attaches notes of meta information to a push stream, and the step which answers the aforementioned notes attachment step and filters one or more pushed objects.

(27) A method given in the above (6) which will change it if staging either filtering determination or determination differs in a contents hierarchy's level.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]It is a figure of the upper level client server architecture provided with the function of this invention.

[Drawing 2]It is a figure showing the example of the server of drawing 1.

[Drawing 3]It is a figure showing the example of server logic.

[Drawing 4]It is a figure showing the example of a head demand hair drier.

[Drawing 5]It is a figure showing the example of a push hair drier.

[Drawing 6]It is a figure showing the example of a push object filtering routine.

[Drawing 7]It is a figure showing the example of a push summary filtering routine.

[Drawing 8]It is a figure showing the example of a staging determination routine.

[Drawing 9]It is a figure showing the example computation of staging urgency.

[Drawing 10]It is a figure showing the example of the missing push object request hair drier.

[Drawing 11]It is a figure showing the example of a push running routine.

[Description of Notations]

20 Website

25 Internet

30 Level 0 proxy

35 Level 1 proxy

37 Level 1 proxy

40 Level 2 proxy

43 Level 2 proxy

50 Level 3 proxy

600 Client

603 Client

[Translation done.]

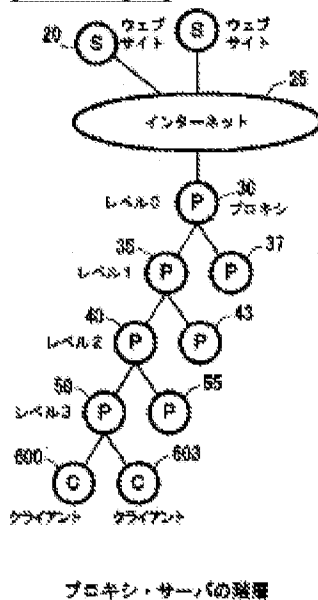
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DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]



[Drawing 2]

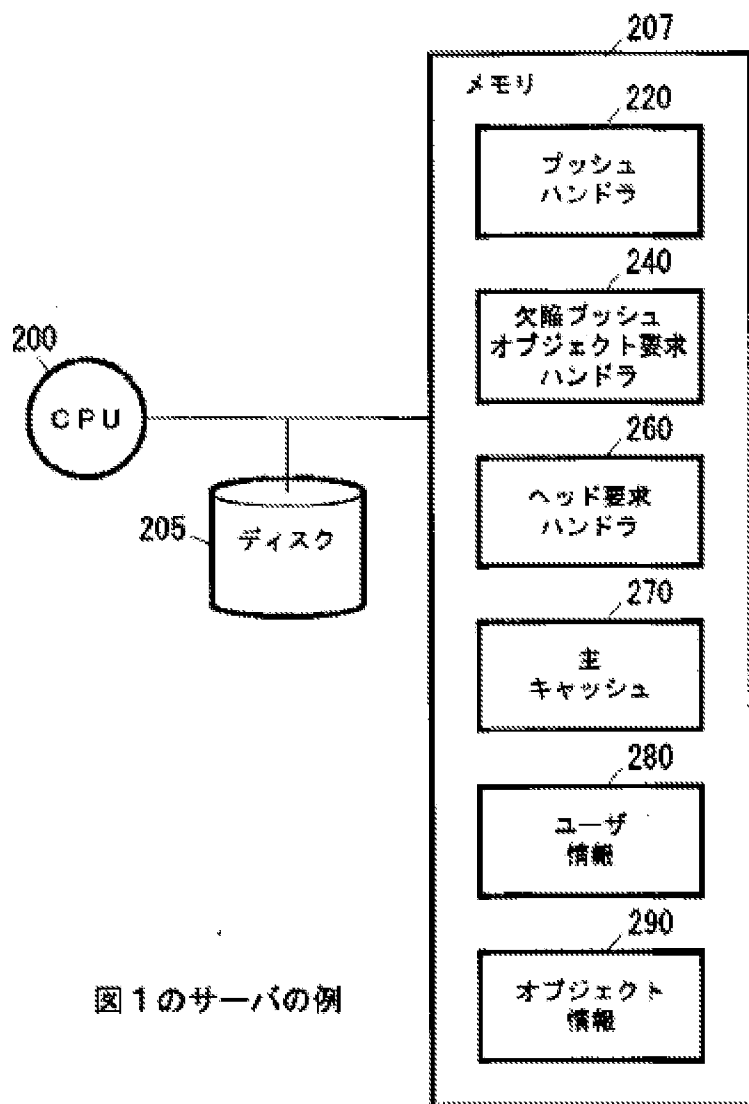
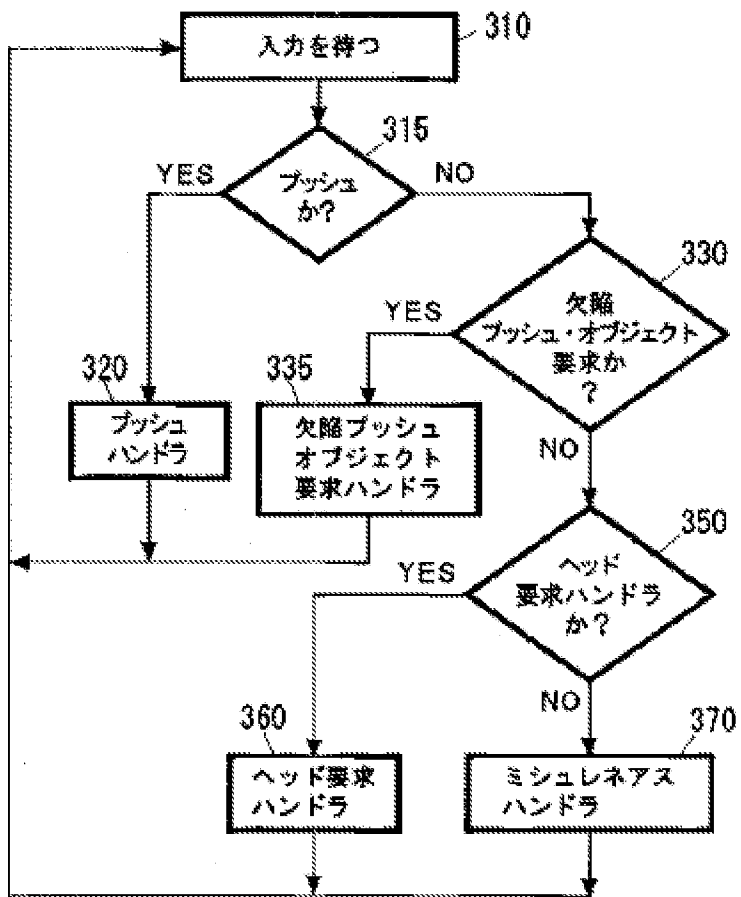
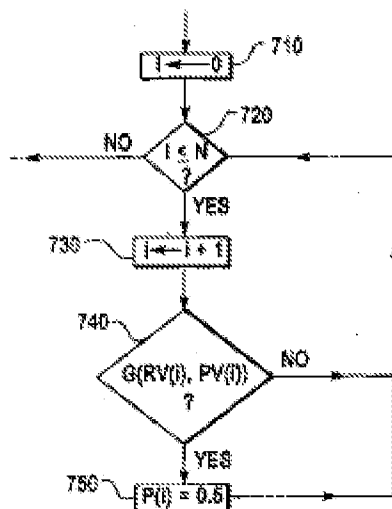


図1のサーバの例

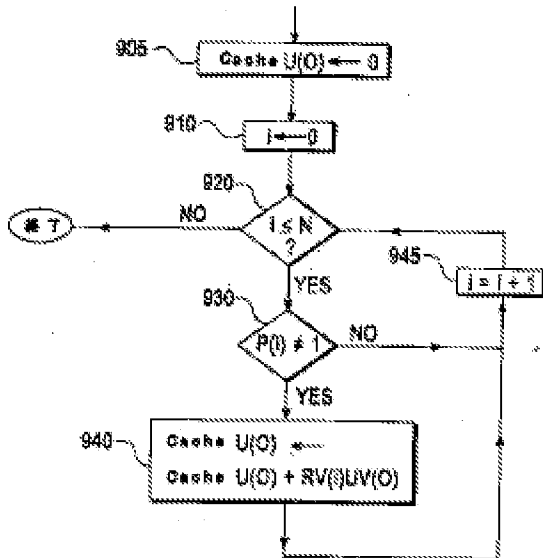
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 7]

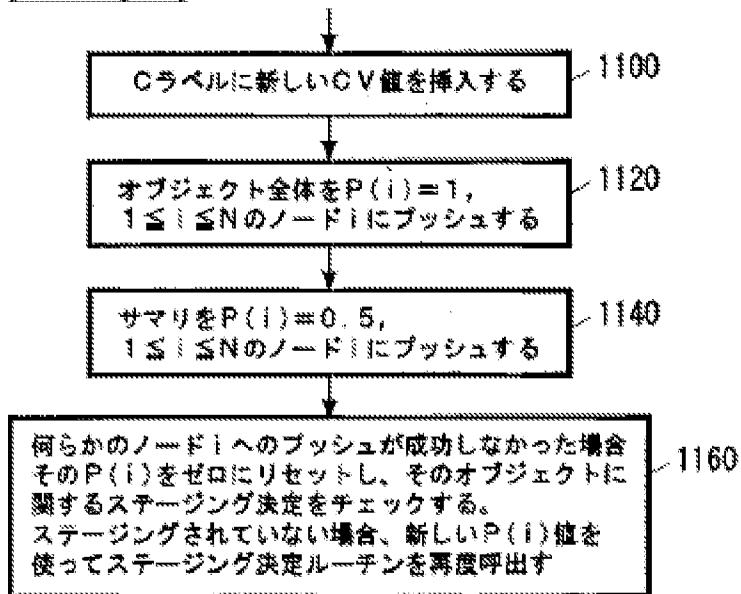


[Drawing 9]



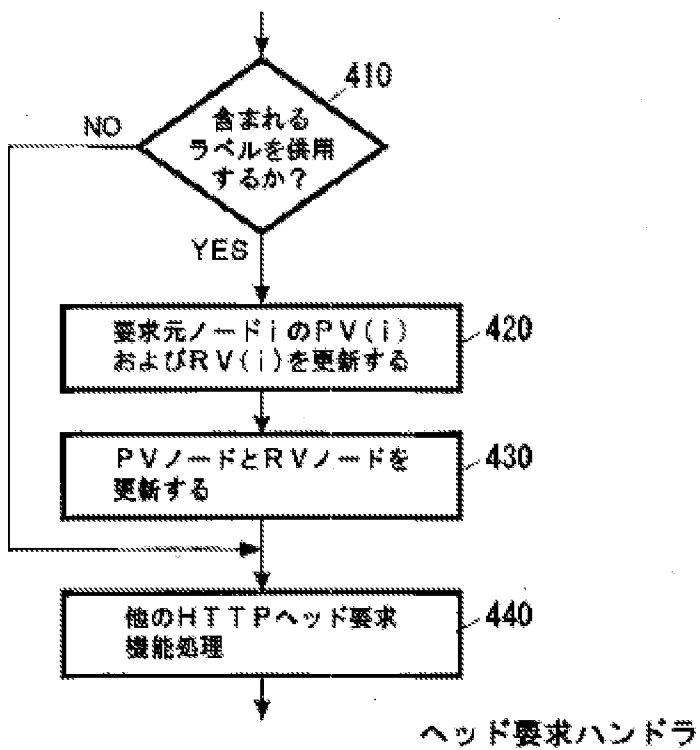
ステージング緊急後の計算

[Drawing 11]

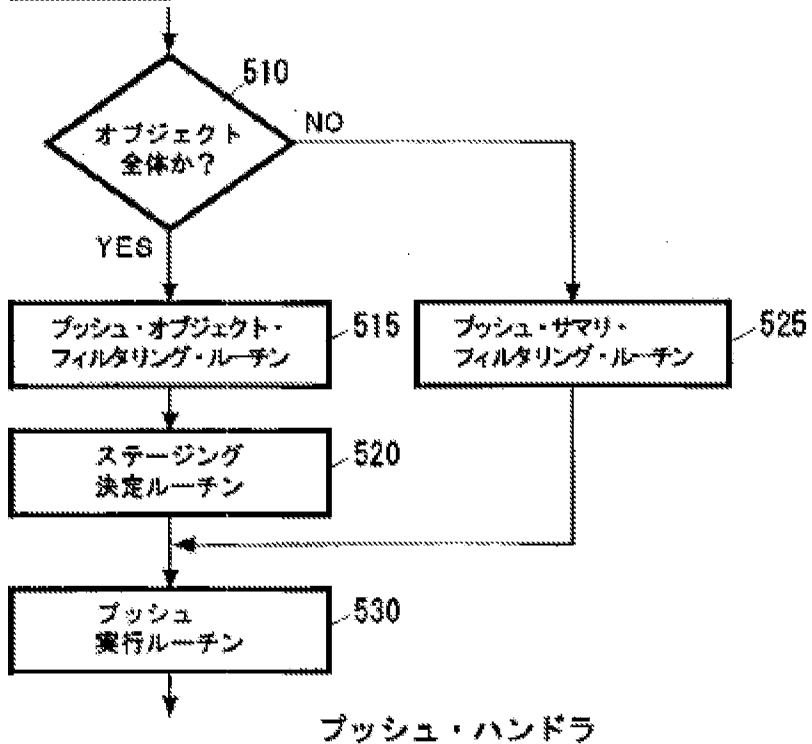


プッシュ実行ルーチン

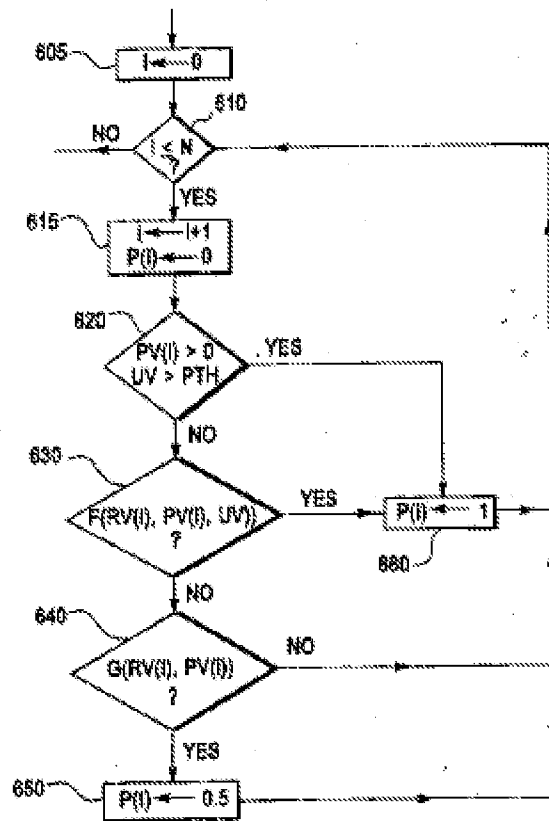
[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 5]

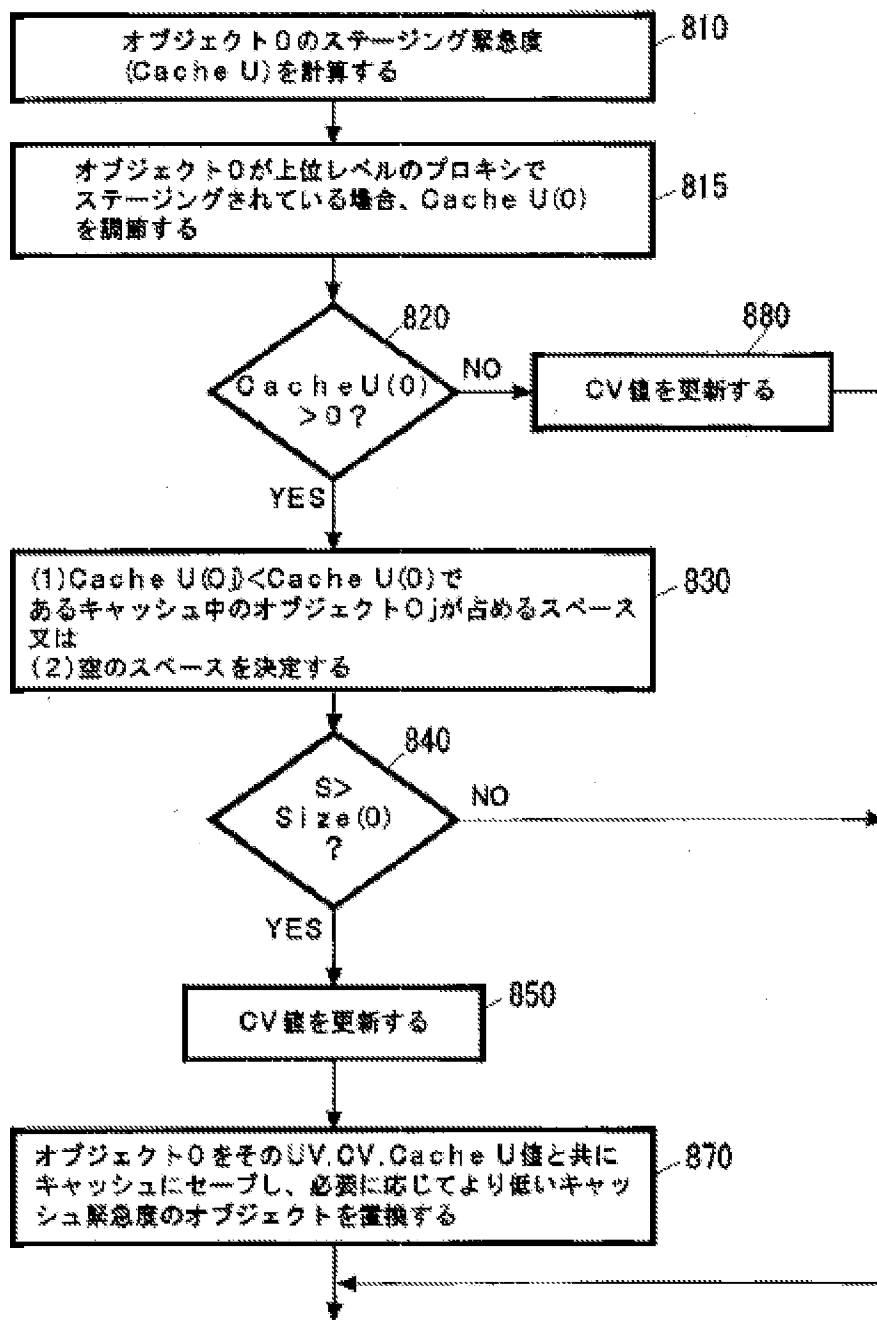


[Drawing 6]



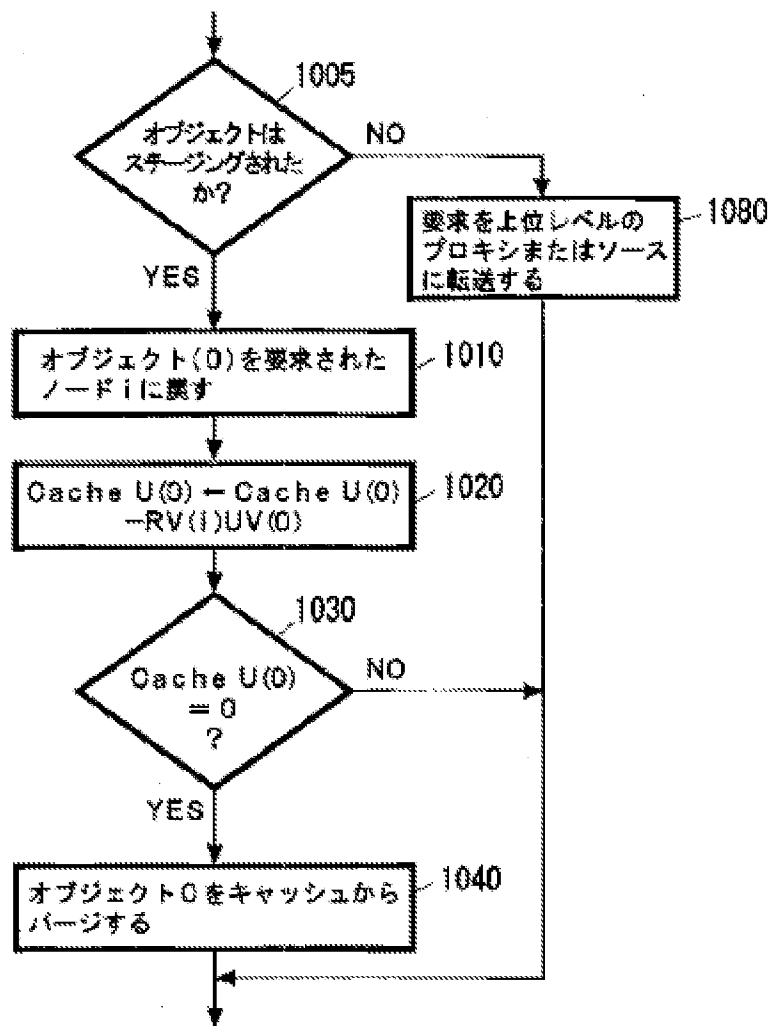
プッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチン

[Drawing 8]



ステージング決定ルーチン

[Drawing 10]



欠陥プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ

[Translation done.]

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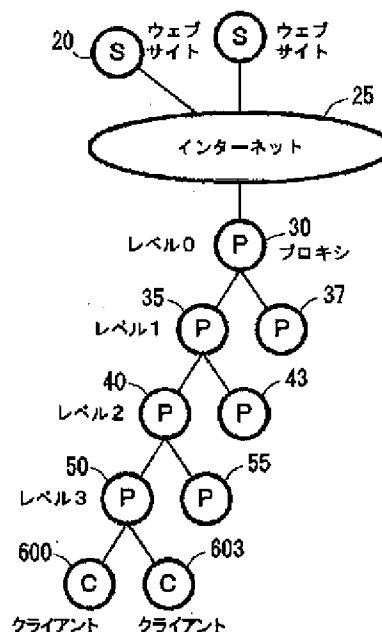
最終頁に続く

(54) 【発明の名称】 プロキシ階層におけるステー징ング/バッファリングを伴う動的ブッシュ・フィルタリング方法

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 利用状況情報に基づきクライアントーサーバ階層でのブッシュ・ベースのフィルタリング方式と、ブッシュ・オブジェクトにオブジェクトのコンテンツまたは緊急度あるいはその両方に関するメタ情報の注釈を付ける方法を提供すること。

【解決手段】 オブジェクトをサーバ上でステー징ングし、フィルタリングされたオブジェクトが後に要求された時点で高速アクセスを可能にすることができる。P I C Sプロトコルを使って、コンテンツ・プロバイダまたはオブジェクトに注釈を付ける上位レベル・プロキシによって、緊急度、サマリまたはタイトル、グループ分類、もしくはブッシュの識別あるいはこれらのすべてを含む情報を送信し、オブジェクト・グループ分類に基づく利用状況情報およびユーザ・プリファレンスを含む、ブッシュされたオブジェクトに関する利用状況またはプリファレンス情報を階層中を上方に送信し、それぞれのステー징ングされたオブジェクトを階層中を下方に送信してキャッシングの効率を向上させることができる。



プロキシ・サーバの階層

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 プッシュされたオブジェクトが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層においてその後プッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、

プッシュされたオブジェクトに関連する利用状況情報を階層中を上方に送信するステップと、
送信されたオブジェクト利用状況情報に基づいてその後プッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

【請求項2】 プッシュされたオブジェクトが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層においてプッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、情報を総合しノード間で交換するステップと、プッシュされたオブジェクトを、総合され交換された情報に基づいてフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

【請求項3】 前記フィルタリング・ステップがフィルタリングされたオブジェクトに関連するメタ情報を送信するステップをさらに含む、請求項2に記載の方法。

【請求項4】 フィルタリング決定、選択された下位レベル・プロキシ/クライアントへのプッシュの成功裏の完了、利用状況情報、および階層内の他のプロキシ・ノードでのステージング決定のいずれかに基づいてオブジェクトの適応ステージングを行うステップをさらに含む、請求項1に記載の方法。

【請求項5】 プッシュされたオブジェクトがメタ情報のコンテンツ階層を含み、その後プッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングする前記ステップがプロキシ階層中を下方にメタ情報を送信するステップをさらに含む、請求項1に記載の方法。

【請求項6】 メタ情報を送信する前記ステップが、オブジェクトの短い説明を階層中を下方に送信するステップと、
フィルタリングされたオブジェクトをプロキシ階層内でステージングするステップとをさらに含む、請求項5に記載の方法。

【請求項7】 オブジェクトをステージングする前記ステップが、
ユーザ・プロファイルで示された潜在的なインタレストを有するすぐ下位のレベルのすべてのプロキシまたはクライアント・ノードがオブジェクトを受信したか、あるいはステージング緊急度因数が所定および計算しきい値を下回ったか、そのいずれかの後にステージングされたオブジェクトをバージするステップをさらに含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項8】 前記フィルタリング・ステップがさらに階層内のすべての下位クライアント・ノードによるプッシュされたオブジェクトの総合利用状況およびプリファレンスを規定するステップをさらに含む、請求項1に記載

の方法。

【請求項9】 オブジェクトがオブジェクト・グループに分類され、各オブジェクト・グループの利用状況情報が以前のユーザ要求パターンに基づく、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項10】 利用状況情報が下位レベル・プロキシまたはクライアントの要求パターンを含み、
前記プッシュされたオブジェクトを異なるグループに分類するステップと、

10 プッシュされたオブジェクトのグループ分けを含む利用状況情報を総合しノード間で交換するステップと、
総合され交換された情報およびプッシュされたオブジェクトのグループ化に基づいてプッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとをさらに含む、請求項1に記載の方法。

【請求項11】 フィルタリング決定またはステージング決定が帯域幅、オブジェクト・プロパティ、またはクライアント特性のいずれかの関数である、請求項4に記載の方法。

20 【請求項12】 クライアント特性がユーザ・プロファイルまたはプリファレンス情報を含む、請求項11に記載の方法。

【請求項13】 オブジェクト緊急度標識をプッシュされたオブジェクトに関連付けて階層中を下方に送信するステップをさらに含む、
前記フィルタリング・ステップがオブジェクト緊急度標識の関数である、請求項1に記載の方法。

【請求項14】 緊急度標識を1つまたは複数の異なる階層レベルに関連付けるステップをさらに含む、

30 前記ステージング・ステップが、緊急度標識の関数としてコンテンツ階層の1つまたは複数のレベルでオブジェクトをステージングするステップを含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項15】 前記フィルタリング・ステップとステージング・ステップのいずれかがオブジェクト・サイズの間数である、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項16】 前記フィルタリング・ステップと前記ステージング・ステップのいずれかがオブジェクトの寿命または満了時間の関数である、請求項4に記載の方法。

40 【請求項17】 前記ステージング・ステップに応答して、プッシュされたオブジェクトのステージング・ステータスをプッシュされたオブジェクトへ送信するステップをさらに含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項18】 プロキシ階層が、前記フィルタリング・ステップと前記ステージング・ステップのいずれかが階層内のすべてのサーバによっては実行されない異種プロキシ階層を含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

50 【請求項19】 PICS利用状況ラベルを作成し、PICSカテゴリ値を使ってプロキシ階層の下位レベルでの総合利用状況情報を表すステップをさらに含む、

前記送信ステップがPICS利用状況ラベルを使って総合利用状況情報を階層中を上方に送信するステップを含む、請求項2に記載の方法。

【請求項20】PICSステージング・ラベルを作成し、PICSカテゴリ値を使ってプロキシ階層の所与のレベルにおけるステージングされたオブジェクトのステージング・ステータスを表すステップと、PICSステージング・ラベルを使ってステージング・ステータスを階層中を下方に送信するステップをさらに含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項21】PICSプッシュ・ラベルを作成し、PICSカテゴリ値を使ってプッシュされたオブジェクトの緊急度標識を表すステップと、PICSプッシュ・ラベルを使って緊急度標識を階層中を下方に送信するステップとをさらに含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項22】メタ情報プロトコルを使って階層中を情報を送信する、請求項1ないし3、5、6、9ないし10、14ないし15、19ないし20または21のいずれか一項に記載の方法。

【請求項23】PISCプロトコルを使って階層中を情報を送信する、請求項1ないし3、5、6、9ないし10、14ないし15、19ないし20または21のいずれか一項に記載の方法。

【請求項24】PICSプッシュ・ラベルを作成し、PICSカテゴリ値を使ってプッシュされたオブジェクトのサマリを表すステップと、PICSプッシュ・ラベルを使ってサマリを階層中を下方に送信するステップとをさらに含む、請求項4に記載の方法。

【請求項25】階層外のプロキシ・ノードについてのステージング決定に基づいてオブジェクトの適応ステージングを行うステップをさらに含む、請求項1に記載の方法。

【請求項26】プッシュされたオブジェクトのストリームが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層において、その後プッシュされるオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、プッシュ・ストリームにメタ情報の注釈を付けるステップと、前記の注釈付けステップに応答して、1つまたは複数のプッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

【請求項27】フィルタリング決定とステージング決定のいずれかが、コンテンツ階層のレベルが異なると変わる、請求項6に記載の方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、改良されたデータ処理システムに関する。本発明の特定の態様は、プロキシ・サーバの階層内でオブジェクトまたはドキュメントを送達する動的プッシュ（または同報通信）フィルタリング方式に関する。本発明のさらに特定の態様は、ウェブ・オブジェクトをワールド・ワイド・ウェブ（WW

W）にプッシュする手順に関する。

【0002】用語集

本明細書で使用する用語の一部は辞書にある意味もあるが、次の用語集も役立つであろう。

【0003】インターネット

一連のTCP/IPプロトコルを使用するネットワークおよびゲートウェイからなるネットワーク。

【0004】クライアント

クライアントとは、コマンドをサーバに発行してそのコマンドに対応するタスクを実行させるコンピュータである。

【0005】サーバ

他のコンピュータのコマンドに従ってタスクを実行する任意のコンピュータがサーバである。ウェブ・サーバは通常1つまたは複数のクライアントをサポートする。

【0006】ワールド・ワイド・ウェブ（WWWまたはウェブ）

強調表示された言葉や関心がある語句（ハイパーリンク）をクリックすることにより、サーバ間およびデータベース間でインターネット・スイッチ上で情報を探するためのインターネットのアプリケーション。インターネットWWWサーバはクライアントをサポートし、情報を提供する。ウェブはすべての資源がURLとしてアドレス指定され、HTMLを使ってURLに対応する情報を表示し、他のURLへのポイント・アンド・クリックによるインタフェースを提供するインターネットと見なすことができる。

【0007】ユニバーサル・リソース・ロケータ（URL）

インターネット上の情報を一意的に識別またはアドレス指定するための方法。Eメール・アドレスのウェブ・ドキュメント・バージョンまたは完全に資格があるファイル名。これらはハイパーリンクでアクセス可能である。URLの1例は、「http://www.phillyu.com:80/table.html」である。ここでURLは4つの成分を備える。左から始めて、最初は使用するプロトコルを指定するもので、残りのロケータと“:”で分離される。2番目は目標ホストのホスト名またはIPアドレスである。これは左側が“/”で、右側が“/”または任意選択として“:”で区切られる。ポート番号は任意選択で、左側はホスト名と“:”で区切られ、右側は“/”で区切られる。第4の成分は実際のファイル名またはプログラム名である。この例では、“html”の拡張子がHTMLファイルであることを示している。

【0008】ハイパーテキスト・マークアップ言語（HTML）

HTMLはとりわけ、ドキュメントを作成し、ウェブ・クライアントから閲覧できる他のウェブ・ドキュメント

に（ハイパーリンク経由で）接続するためにウェブ・サーバが使用する言語である。

【0009】ハイパーテキスト転送プロトコル（HTTPまたはhttp）

HTTPはクライアントからサーバへのすべての要求が独立して扱われることを意味する無状態プロトコルの例である。サーバは以前の接続の記録を持たない。URLの冒頭にある「http:」は要求元クライアントと目標サーバが指定の資源に関してHTTPを使って通信を行うことを示している。

【0010】インターネット・ブラウザまたはウェブ・ブラウザ

httpなどのインターネット・プロトコルを実行し、その結果をユーザの画面に表示するグラフィカル・インタフェース。ブラウザは、ユーザがインターネットの「サーフィン」をする際に使用されるデスクトップ画面、ディレクトリおよび検索ツールを備えたインターネットのツアー・ガイドとして機能できる。この適用例ではウェブ・ブラウザはワールド・ワイド・ウェブと通信するクライアント・サービスである。

【0011】クライアント・キャッシュ

クライアント・キャッシュは通常、クライアントがアクセスするオブジェクト用の1次キャッシュとして使用される。WWW環境では、クライアント・キャッシュは通常ウェブ・ブラウザによって実施され、現在の呼出し中にオブジェクトをキャッシュする非持続性キャッシュでもよく、複数の呼出しにまたがってオブジェクトをキャッシュすることもできる。

【0012】キャッシング・プロキシ

クライアントのためにエージェントとして働いて、オブジェクトのキャッシュされたコピーを見つける、ネットワーク内の専用サーバ。キャッシング・プロキシは、クライアント・キャッシュからのキャッシュ・ミスの結果として呼び出されるため、通常は2次またはそれ以上のレベルのキャッシュとして動作する。

【0013】HTTPデーモン（HTTPD）

ハイパーテキスト転送プロトコルおよび共通ゲートウェイ・インタフェース機能を備えるサーバ。HTTPDは通常、イントラネット上のマシンへのハードウェア接続、およびTCP/IPカプリングなどインターネットへのアクセスを提供する、アクセス・エージェントによってサポートされる。

【0014】ワールド・ワイド・ウェブ（WWWまたはウェブ）の人気の急激な高まりに伴って、インターネット上のトラフィック量も増加している。その結果、ウェブはネットワーク・パフォーマンスの主要なボトルネックになってきた。低速ネットワーク・リンクを介してサーバに接続されているユーザからドキュメントまたは情報の要求があった場合、ユーザ・エンドではかなりの待ち時間を覚悟しなくてはならない。要求されたドキュメ

ントを「プル」するのに長時間待つという手間を避けるための代替方法は、コンテンツ・プロバイダに該当するドキュメントが使用可能になると同時にあらかじめ規定したユーザ・プリファレンスまたはプロファイルに基づいてユーザヘドキュメントを「プッシュ」させる方法である。

【0015】このプッシュ方法は、ネットワークからオーバーフローする傾向がある。これは、ユーザのプリファレンス指定が不適切になりがちなため、あまりにも多くのドキュメントがユーザの元にプッシュされることが原因で起こる。

【0016】従来の「プル」方法では、アクセスの待ち時間を減らす1つの方法は人気があるドキュメントまたはユーザに身近な情報のコピーをキャッシュすることで、そこからのアクセスの待ち時間はより短くなる。このキャッシングはネットワーク上のさまざまなポイントで実施できる。例えば、大きな大学や会社では独自のローカル・キャッシュがあり、そこからネットワークの加入したすべてのユーザがドキュメントを取り出すことができる場合がある。場合によっては、クライアントのためのエージェントとして動作できる、キャッシング・プロキシと呼ばれる専用サーバが、ドキュメントのキャッシュされたコピーを見つけるためにネットワーク中で実施される。通常、キャッシング・プロキシは（1次）クライアント・キャッシュからのキャッシュ・ミスにのみ関連しているため、2次またはそれ以上のレベルのキャッシュとして動作する。クライアント・キャッシュは通常ウェブ・ブラウザの一部であり、現在の呼出し中にアクセスされたオブジェクトを記憶する（Mosaicで実施されるような非持続性キャッシュ）、または、複数の呼出しにまたがってアクセスされたドキュメントを記憶することができる。

【0017】一般的に、プロキシの階層はクライアントとサーバ（1つまたは複数の）によって構成される。コンピュータ・ネットワークでは、プロジェクト・プロキシ、部門プロキシ、サイト・プロキシなどが1つまたは複数存在する。インターネットのサービス・プロバイダは各近隣、各下位地域、各地域などの1つまたは複数でプロキシを実施できる。クライアントまたはプロキシあるいはその両方がキャッシング階層を形成する。厳密な階層では、キャッシュ・ミスが生じると（クライアント）またはプロキシは、CERN HTTPキャッシュで使われるHTTPインタフェースのようなキャッシング・プロキシ・インタフェースを介して階層のすぐ上位レベルから欠落したオブジェクトを要求する。より最近では、ハーベストにおいて、キャッシュ・ミス時に「兄弟」または「近隣」キャッシュに問い合わせることができる（C. M. ブラウン（Brown）他、「Harvest: A Scalable, Customizable Discovery and Access System」コロラド大学、コンピュータ科学部、技術レポート

C U - C S - 7 3 2 - 9 4、1 9 9 4 年を参照)。いずれの場合も、キャッシングの決定は他のプロキシでキャッシングされたオブジェクトとは無関係にそれぞれのローカル・プロキシで行われる。言い換えると、キャッシングの決定はローカル・キャッシュのコンテンツまたはオブジェクト特性あるいはその両方の関数としてのみ実行される。

【0018】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 以上のように、プッシュ・ベースのフィルタリングおよびプロキシ・サーバを開発し、ビューワの実際の利用状況に基づくシステムが必要である。さらに、ステージング決定がプッシュ・フィルタリング決定およびプッシュ・アクティビティの結果に基づいて実行されるシステムおよび方法が必要である。また、プロキシ・サーバ間、コンテンツ・サーバとクライアント間での情報の送受信または交換によってプロキシ階層をより効果的に運用する必要がある。本発明は上記の必要に関する。

【0019】

【課題を解決するための手段】 上記の必要に応じて、本発明は、実際の利用情報に基づくクライアントーサーバ階層でプッシュ情報をフィルタリングする方法およびシステムを対象とする。利用状況情報は実際のオブジェクト参照/アクセス・パターンを含むことができる。ステージング・キャッシュ・マネージャはサーバ（1つまたは複数）で実施され、フィルタリングされたオブジェクトが後で要求された時点で高速アクセスを可能にできる。

【0020】 プッシュされたオブジェクトが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層においてプッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする本発明による機能を備えた方法は、プッシュされたオブジェクトに関連する利用情報を階層中を上方に送信するステップと、その後、送信されたオブジェクト利用情報に基づいてプッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップを含む。

【0021】 本発明の別の態様は、情報を総合してノード間で交換する追加ステップと、プッシュされたオブジェクトを、総合され交換された情報に基づいてフィルタリングする追加ステップを含む。このフィルタリング・ステップは、さらにフィルタリングされたオブジェクトに関連するメタ情報を送信するステップを含むことができる。

【0022】 本発明のさらに別の態様は、フィルタリング決定、選択された下位レベル・プロキシ/クライアントへのプッシュの成功裏の完了、利用状況情報、および階層内の他のプロキシ・ノードでのステージング決定のいずれかに基づいてオブジェクトの適応ステージングを行うステップを含む。その他の機能によってプロキシ・サーバはステージングされたオブジェクトをタイムリにページし、オブジェクトの冗長ステージングを削減する

ことによってより有効にキャッシュを管理することができる。

【0023】 本発明のさらに別の態様では、プッシュされたオブジェクトがメタ情報のコンテンツ階層を含み、その後プッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップがプロキシ階層中を下方にメタ情報を送信するステップをさらに含む。

【0024】 本発明の別の態様では、プッシュ・フィルタリングはコンテンツ・レベルでのプッシュの決定を含む。フィルタリングの決定はタイトルまたはサマリ（コンテンツ全体ではなく）だけを次の（下位の）レベルの階層のいくつかのノードへプッシュすることでもよい。このように、フィルタリングの決定は次のどの（下位の）レベルのノードがプッシュを受信するかだけでなく、各ノードが受信するコンテンツ・レベルで可能である。次の（下位の）レベルのノードへのフィルタリングの決定はその次の（下位の）レベルのノードの下すべてのユーザの利用状況の総合情報に基づくことができる。

【0025】 本発明のさらに別の態様では、プッシュされたオブジェクトのストリームが階層中を下方に送信され、その後プッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法が、プッシュ・ストリームにメタ情報の注釈を付けるステップと、注釈付けのステップに回答してプッシュされた1つまたは複数のオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップを含む。

【0026】 本発明のさらに別の態様では、インターネット環境で、P I C S プロトコルを使って各種の情報を送信できる。まず、コンテンツ・プロバイダまたは上位レベルのプロキシ・ノードはP I C S を使ってオブジェクトに注釈を付ける、すなわち、プッシュ・オブジェクトに関する情報の特性を指定できる。この情報はプッシュ・オブジェクトの緊急度または優先度、オブジェクト・コンテンツのサマリまたはタイトル、グループ分類、またはプッシュの送信元チャネル（識別）あるいはこれらすべてを含むことができる。第2に、P I C S を使ってプッシュ・オブジェクトのプリファレンス情報の利用状況を階層の下位レベルから上方に送信できる。これにはオブジェクト・グループ分類に基づく利用状況情報およびユーザ・プリファレンスを含むことができる。第3に、P I C S を使って、それぞれのステージングされたオブジェクト（上位階層のいくつかまたはすべての）のステージング状態を階層中を下方へ送信することができる。この場合、P I C S プロトコルを一般化して階層全体にわたって情報の交換または送信を行うことができる。より詳細に言えば、これらの各種の情報はP I C S プロトコルを使ってオブジェクトのヘッダに記憶することができる。各情報タイプについて新しいP I C S ラベルを定義してP I C S カテゴリ値を特定の状況に対応させることができる。下位レベル・サーバ（またはクライ

アント)はPICSカテゴリ値を解釈してプッシュまたはステージングの決定を効率化することができる。

【0027】

【発明の実施の形態】図1に本発明の機能を備えたプロキシ・サーバの階層の全体アーキテクチャを示す。図に示すように、クライアント(600...603)はプロキシ・サーバ(30...55)の階層(レベル0...レベル3)を介してインターネット(25)に接続できる。この例に限って言うと、図示のプロキシ階層は4つのレベルのプロキシ・サーバを含む。プロキシ階層のレベルはいくつでもかまわず、クライアント(600...603)は実際そのどのレベルにも接続できることを当業者なら理解するであろう。最高レベル(レベル0)のプロキシ(30)はインターネットに接続する。レベル1のプロキシは2つ(35と37)あり、一方のレベル1プロキシ35はレベル2のプロキシ(40と43)に接続される。クライアント603はそのすぐ上のレベル(レベル3)のプロキシ(50)に、次いでレベル2、1、0のプロキシ(40、35、30)に結合される。クライアントは、インターネット(25)を介して様々なウェブ・サイト(20)にアクセスすることができる。クライアントはステージングおよびユーザ情報を管理するためそれ自体のクライアント・プロキシを有することができる。プロキシ・サーバの階層は1つのクライアント(600)と単一のプロキシ・サーバを含むこともできることを当業者なら理解するであろう。

【0028】クライアント(603)から見ると、ある種のプロキシ(55、43、および37)はそのプロキシ階層の一部ではない。代表的な通信パスがすぐ上位レベルのプロキシ経由であるが下位レベルのプロキシは直接インターネットの他の上位レベルのプロキシへ通信が可能であることを当業者なら理解するであろう。

【0029】従来のプロキシ階層では、プッシュされたオブジェクトの受信後、オブジェクトは次の(下位の)レベルのプロキシへ下方にプッシュされる。他方、ローカルに使用できないオブジェクトでの「プル」要求の場合、欠落オブジェクトの要求は次の上位レベルのプッシュに対して行われる。上位レベル・プロキシが以前にオブジェクトをステージングした場合、このプロキシはオブジェクトを下方に渡す。そうでない場合、このプロキシは上位レベル・プロキシからオブジェクトを入手しようとする。入力されたオブジェクトはそのオブジェクトを要求している次の下位レベルのプロキシへ下方に渡される。

【0030】図1はオブジェクトおよび要求の情報のフローを表す論理接続だけを示す図であることに注意されたい。この図は物理的接続図ではない。論理接続は作業負荷やノードまたはリンク障害などの物理的イベントによって変わる場合がある。オブジェクトのタイプが異なれば、ユーザへ到達する論理パスも異なる場合がある。

【0031】概観すると、本発明のサーバ(30...50)は、オブジェクトと共にプッシュ・オブジェクトおよびそのステージングの決定に関する情報を次の(下位の)レベルのプロキシへプッシュする。実際、それ自体のステージングの決定だけでなく、上位階層全体のステージングの決定(1つまたは複数の)を下方に渡すことができる。

【0032】本発明は階層の上下方に情報を効率的に送信するための機能をさらに備える。httpを実施する場合、情報交換は既存のウェブ・プロトコルを使ってオブジェクト・ヘッダ内に含めることができる。PICS(「インターネット・コンテンツ選択用プラットフォーム」)は電子コンテンツに関するメタ情報を送信する方法を規定する。PICSはウェブ・コンソーシアム・プロトコル勧告である(http://www.w3.org/PICSを参照)。PICSは「このコンテンツにどれくらいの量のnudity(ヌーディティ)が関連付けられているか」などの値ベースの評価ラベルを昇進するために初めて使用されたが、メタ情報のフォーマットと意味は完全に一般的である。PICSでは、電子コンテンツのメタ情報が「評価サービス」または情報の生成源および予定利用状況に従ってグループ分けされそのグループの1つの中で情報の任意の数のカテゴリまたはディメンションを送信できる。各カテゴリには許される値の範囲があり、特定の1件のコンテンツについて、特定のカテゴリが単一または複数の値をとることができる。さらに、メタ情報グループ(「PICSラベル」として知られている)は満了情報を含むことができる。また、PICSが複数の電子コンテンツに適用する機能もある。特定の1件の電子コンテンツのPICSラベルは独立してコンテンツに追加またはそこから削除できる。

【0033】例えば、「評価サービス」フィールドが「Safe surf」評価システムに従って値ベースの評価ラベルを含むことを示す単一のPICSラベルを付けたサーバイメージ・ファイルを送信することができる。本発明によれば、イメージ・ファイルは企業プロキシ通過する際に「評価サービス」フィールドがプロキシ・ステージング情報を含むことを示す第2のPICSラベルを受信することができる。部門プロキシを通過する際に第2のPICSラベルをはがすことができる。このように、クライアント・コンピュータは第1のPICSラベルだけを参照することができる。httpプロトコルはPICSをサポートする要求ヘッダおよび応答ヘッダを増強している。NNTPなどの他の共通アプリケーション・プロトコルを規定する技術機関もPICSサポートを追加することを考慮している。こうしたプロトコルの一部として、要求によって、所望のPICSラベルのタイプのリストを含めることもできる。またPICSは中央のラベル局サーバからPICS情報を受信する照会フォーマットを規定している。PICSラベルの例

は、(PICS-1.1 "http://the.rating.service" label for "http://the.content.exp" 1997.07.01T08:15-0500"r(n4s3v210))で、ここで「n」、「s」、「v」、「1」は各種メタ情報タイプの送信名、このコンテンツの適用可能な値は4(nの場合)、3(sの場合)、2(vの場合)、および0(1の場合)である。ID「http://the.rating.service」を認識するソフトウェアだけがこれらのカテゴリおよび値の解釈が可能であろう。

【0034】好ましい実施形態では、3つの異なるPICSラベルが使用される。プッシュ・ラベルまたは(P-ラベル)と呼ばれる第1の種類のPICSラベルはコンテンツ・プロバイダまたは上位レベルのプロキシが使用してオブジェクトの注釈付け、すなわち、プッシュ・オブジェクトの特性を指定したりそれに関する情報を指定する。このラベルは次のカテゴリのいずれの組み合わせも含むことができるがそれだけには限定されない。

【0035】・緊急度カテゴリ:「緊急度」カテゴリの値はオブジェクトを下方にプッシュする緊急度を示す。そのカテゴリ値として「UV」を定義する。

【0036】・サマリ・カテゴリ:「サマリ」カテゴリの値はプッシュ・オブジェクト/ドキュメントの短いサマリを示す。より一般的なケースでは、1つのオブジェクトを複数の詳細レベルで指定できる。このコンテンツ階層は上記の3つ以上のレベル(フル・コンテンツおよびサマリ)からなることができる。例えば、別のタイトル・レベルを含むことができる。ニュース・オブジェクトの場合、「テロリストがショッピング・センタに爆弾をしかけて2名が死亡した。」のサマリとニュースの全コンテンツである「爆弾の爆発」などのタイトルを含むことができる。それぞれの追加のコンテンツ・レベルの別のカテゴリを使ってタイトルなど追加のコンテンツ・レベルをP-ラベルで指定できる。この例には、オブジェクト・タイトルの「タイトル」カテゴリがある。さらに、サマリ・カテゴリに全オブジェクト(すなわち、全コンテンツ)からの異なる緊急カテゴリ値を指定もできる。例えば、より高い緊急度カテゴリ値をサマリに指定できる。

【0037】・グループ・カテゴリ:「グループ」カテゴリの値はオブジェクトの分類を示す。例えば社内報の同報通信の場合、代表的なグループ・カテゴリ値は「企業」、「HR」、「部門」、「競合他社」などを含むことができる。グループ・カテゴリを導入する第1の目的は、ユーザ情報(次節で説明する)をグループ・カテゴリが収集できるようにし、グループ・カテゴリによるプッシュを可能にすることである。

【0038】・チャンネル・カテゴリ:「チャンネル」カテゴリの値は同報通信チャンネルまたはコンテンツ送信源を

示す。例えば、内部企業チャンネル、またはPOINTCAST(http://www.pointcast.com)の商標でPointcast, Inc. から利用できる外部チャンネルである。異なるチャンネルは異なるグループ・カテゴリを備えることができる。

【0039】好ましい実施形態では、1つのグループ・カテゴリおよび1つのチャンネル・カテゴリが形態を簡素化すると議論される。当業者は複数のグループまたはチャンネル・カテゴリあるいはその両方への一般化は容易である一チャンネルごとに別々にグループ単位で統計情報が保持され、プッシュ・フィルタリングの決定がオブジェクト・グループに対して利用状況に基づいてなされるため一ことを理解するであろう。

【0040】ユーザ・ラベル(U-ラベル)と呼ばれる第2の種類のPICSラベルを使って階層の下位のレベルから上方にプッシュ・オブジェクトの利用またはプリファレンス情報を送信できる。このラベルは次のカテゴリのいずれの組み合わせも含むことができるがそれだけには限定されない。

【0041】・利用状況(usage)カテゴリ:「利用状況」カテゴリの値はオブジェクト(オブジェクト・グループ内の)はどのくらいの頻度で下位階層で参照/アクセスされているかを示す。このカテゴリ値は「RV」で示される。

【0042】・プリファレンス・カテゴリ:「プリファレンス」カテゴリの値はユーザがプロファイル指定によって指定する興味がある対象を示す。プロファイル情報はユーザの興味が変わって更新しくなると廃止できる。このカテゴリ値は「PV」で示される。

【0043】「ステージング」ラベル(C-ラベル)と呼ばれる第3のタイプのPICSラベルはプロキシがオブジェクトが階層を通過する際に動作情報(キャッシング/ステージング情報などの)を送信し、共用するために使用する。このラベルは次のカテゴリのいずれの組み合わせも含むことができるがそれだけには限定されない。

【0044】・ステータス・カテゴリ:「ステータス」カテゴリの値はオブジェクトが上位カテゴリ内でステージングされるかまたはステージングの方法あるいはその両方を示す。このラベルはそれぞれの上位レベル階層でオブジェクトがステージングされるかどうか指定できる。コンテンツ階層が使用できる場合、カテゴリ値は全ドキュメントとサマリのどちらをステージングするかをさらに示すことができる。

【0045】オブジェクトのステージング・ステータスは「CV」で示される。任意のプロキシでCV値を決定する方法の1つを以下に説明する。例えば、2進値表記を使って次のようにCV値を決定できる。n番目のレベルのプロキシの場合、下方に渡されるオブジェクトのCV値はn個のビットを備え、k番目のビットには(n-

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k) レベルのプロキシが階層内を下方にオブジェクトを送信した際にオブジェクトをステージングした場合は1となる。そうでない場合、k番目のビットは0になる。さらに、ステージング・ステータス情報を使って、オブジェクトをすぐ上位のレベルのプロキシに要求せずに、オブジェクト要求をオブジェクトをステージングした可能性が高い最も近い上位のレベルのプロキシへ転送することもできる。

【0046】図1を再度参照して、例えばオブジェクトAのCV値を考える。レベル0プロキシ(30)とレベル2プロキシ(40)はオブジェクトAをステージングし、レベル1プロキシ(35)はオブジェクトAをステージングしていないものとする。レベル3プロキシ50へ下方に渡されたオブジェクトAのCV値はの場合「101」(2進値)または5(10進値)になる。プロキシ35オブジェクトプロキシ40へ下方に渡されたオブジェクトAのCV値はそれぞれ「1」と「10」である。階層内でステージング・ステータスを表す別の方法もあることを当業者は理解するであろう。これより簡素ではあるが正確さが低い方法として、単一のビットを使っていずれかの上位レベルのプロキシがオブジェクトをステージングしたかどうかを表す方法がある。ビットがオンの場合、上位レベル・プロキシがオブジェクトをステージングしている。そうでない場合、どの上位レベルのプロキシもオブジェクトをステージングしていない。

【0047】図2に図1のプロキシ・サーバのアーキテクチャの詳細例を示す。慣例として、プロキシ・サーバはCPU(200)、ディスク(205)、持続性データまたはプログラム/コード記憶用の磁気、電子、または光記憶メディア、およびCPU(200)によるデータまたはプログラムあるいはその両方の動的アクセスまたは実行あるいはその両方を行うためのメモリ(207)を含む。本発明の精神と範囲を逸脱することなく、メモリ(207)内にインスタンス化された1つまたは複数のコンポーネントがディスク(205)、ネットワーク(25)他のサーバから直接アクセスして保守でき、複数のサーバに配布できることを当業者は理解するであろう。好ましくはCPU(200)上で実行可能なソフトウェアとして具体化されたプロキシ・サーバの3つの主要コンポーネントは、プッシュ・ハンドラ(220)、欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ(240)、およびヘッド要求ハンドラ(260)である。これらのコンポーネントについてはそれぞれ図5、10および4を参照しながら以下に詳述する。

【0048】メモリ(207)は本発明の機能に関連したいくつかのその他の構造を含む。図8を参照しながら以下に詳述するように、キャッシュ(270)は各プロキシ・ノードで保守される。プッシュがフィルタリングされた場合にキャッシュを使ってプッシュ・オブジェクトをステージングする。オブジェクトを後に要求する場合、この手順でアクセス時間が短縮される。キャッシュがディスク(205)などの記憶階層の下位レベルまで拡張できることに注意されたい。したがって、プロキシ内のキャッシングまたはステージングされたオブジェクトは階層のどのレベルにも常駐できる。図4を参照しながら以下に詳述するように、それぞれの次のレベルのノードの総合ユーザ情報はユーザ情報280が示すように保守されてフィルタリングの決定を支援する。図8を参照しながら以下に詳述するように、それぞれのステージングされたオブジェクトに関連する一定のオブジェクト情報290(UVなどの)はフィルタリングの決定のために保守される。このことは、図10を参照しながら以下に詳述するように、ステージングされたオブジェクトをパージするかどうかについての後の決定に影響する。

【0049】図3に本発明の機能を備えたプロキシ・サーバ論理の例を示す。図示のように、ステップ310でプロキシ・サーバは入力待ち状態となる。ステップ315で、受信した入力によって、処置が分岐する。受信した入力(次の上位レベルから)がプッシュの場合、ステップ320でプッシュ・ハンドラ320が呼び出される。プッシュ・ハンドラの詳細例は図5を参照しながら後述する。ステップ330で、受信した入力欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求の場合、欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ240がステップ335で呼び出される。欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ240は上位レベル・プロキシ・ノードによってフィルタリングされたオブジェクトに関して下位レベル・プロキシ(またはクライアント)からの要求を処理する。欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラの詳細例は図10を参照しながら後述する。ステップ350で、受信した入力欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求の場合(下位レベル・プロキシまたはクライアントからの)、ステップ360でヘッド要求ハンドラ260が呼び出される。ヘッド要求ハンドラ260はHTTPヘッド要求を処理して下位レベル・プロキシからのユーザ情報を送信する。ヘッド要求ハンドラの詳細例は図4を参照しながら後述する。ステップ350で、本発明の対象ではない他のタイプの入力について(従来のHTTP「プル」要求またはFTP要求など)、該当するミセレニアス・ハンドラ(370)が呼び出される。

【0050】図4にヘッド要求ハンドラ(260)の例を示す。図示のように、ステップ410でプロキシは次の下位レベル・ノードiから受信したヘッド要求がヘッダ内にユーザ・ラベル(U-ラベル)を含むかどうかチェックする。U-ラベルは関連するカテゴリ値がそれぞれRVとPVで表される利用状況およびプリファレンスの2つのカテゴリを含む。次の下位レベル・ノードiのそれぞれについて、プロキシ・サーバはメモリ内にその利用状況とプリファレンス・カテゴリ値をユーザ情報(280)のRV(i)とPV(i)内にそれぞれ保守

する。ステップ420で、RV(i)およびPV(i)はノードiの新たに受信した値に合わせて更新される。ステップ430で、プロキシ・ノードは総合利用状況とプリファレンス値(それぞれRVnodeおよびPVnodeで示されている)をすべての次の下位レベルのノードにわたって保守する。これらの2つの平均方法を更新する際は指数平均法を用いることが好ましい。より詳細に言えば、PVnodeはその現在の値プラス新しいPV(i)と旧PV(i)値の差の小数部分に設定される。この一例は小数部分が0.5である。RVnode値も同様に設定される。ステップ440で、HTTPヘッダ中の他の情報を処理することができる。この一例はオブジェクトが最後に変更された時点に基づくオブジェクトの「新鮮度」をチェックすることである。

【0051】図5にプッシュ・ハンドラ220の例を示す。図示のように、ステップ510で次の(上位)レベルからプッシュされたオブジェクトが全オブジェクトの場合、すなわち、ヘッダだけではなく全コンテンツの場合、ステップ515でプッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチンが呼び出され、次の下位レベル・ノード(1つまたは複数)へのプッシュのフィルタリング決定がなされる。プッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチンの詳細例は図6を参照しながら後述する。ステップ520で、このノードのオブジェクトをステージングするかどうか決定するため、ステージング決定ルーチンが呼び出される。ステージング決定ルーチンの詳しい例については、図8に関して述べる。ステップ510で、上位レベル・プロキシからサマリ情報だけがプッシュされた場合、ステップ525でプッシュ・サマリ・フィルタリング・ルーチンが呼び出され、サマリを下位レベル・ノードへプッシュするかどうか決定される。プッシュ・サマリ・フィルタリング・ルーチンの詳細例は図7を参照しながら後述する。ステップ530でプッシュ実行ルーチンが呼び出されて下位レベル・ノードへのプッシュが実行される。プッシュ実行ルーチンの詳細例は図11を参照しながら後述する。

【0052】図6にプッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチンの例を示す。ステップ610で、インデックス変数iが0に初期化される。ステップ610で、インデックス変数iが次の下位レベルのノードの数Nより小さい場合、ステップ615でiの値が例えば1インクリメントし、プッシュ決定変数P(i)が例えば0に初期化される。ステップ620で、オブジェクトのプッシュ(UV)の緊急度レベルが緊急プッシュしきい値(PTH)より大きく、PV(i)が0より大きい場合(複数の下位レベルユーザがオブジェクト内にプロファイルなどによってインタレストを指定した場合)、ステップ660でプッシュ決定が選択され(P(i)が1に設定され)、全オブジェクトがノードiへプッシュされる(図11のステップ1120を参照)。そうでない

場合、ステップ630で、(論理)関数F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)、すなわち、オブジェクトのプロパティ(例:UV)と、オブジェクトユーザ特性(例:RV(i)およびPV(i))の関数が呼び出され、フィルタリング決定を行う。F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)が真の場合、ステップ660が実行されてP(i)は1に設定され、全オブジェクトがノードiへプッシュされる。F(RV(i), PV(i), UV)の簡素な例は論理式((RV(i)UV>QTH) and (PV(i)>0))である。ただし、QTHは1などのしきい値である。より複雑なF関数を設計してオブジェクトの帯域幅またはサイズあるいはその両方の因数を考慮できる。例えば、別のF(RV(i), PV(i), UV)を((RV(i)UV>WTH) and (PV(i)>0))の論理式で表すことができる。ただし、WTHはオブジェクト・サイズと共に増加し、利用可能な帯域幅と共に減少するしきい値である。WTHはドキュメントの満了時間を考慮することもできる。この値を満了時間が長いオブジェクトに関して低く設定できる。ステップ640で、(論理)関数G(RV(i), PV(i))が呼び出され、プッシュ・サマリ決定が実行される。G(RV(i), PV(i))の例は論理式((RV(i)>0) and (PV(i)>0))である。F関数と同様に、より複雑なG関数を設計して帯域幅などの他の因数をプッシュ・サーバの決定で考慮することができる。ステップ650で、P(i)は0.5に設定され、サマリは下方にノードiへプッシュされる。

【0053】図7にプッシュ・サマリ・フィルタリング・ルーチンの例を示す。ステップ710で、インデックス変数iは0に初期化される。ステップ720で、インデックス変数iが次の下位レベルのノードの数Nより小さい場合、ステップ730でiの値が例えば1インクリメントする。ステップ740で、関数G(RV(i), PV(i))が呼び出され、プッシュ・サマリ決定が実行される(これはステップ640に呼び出される関数と同じ関数である)。ステップ740で、G関数が真の場合、ステップ750でP(i)は0.5に設定され、サマリは下方にノードiへプッシュされる(図11のステップ1140を参照)。

【0054】図8にステージング決定ルーチンの例を示す。ステップ810で、オブジェクトOの「ステージング緊急度」因数が計算される。この因数はCacheU(O)として表される。オブジェクトのステージング緊急度の計算論理の例は図9を参照しながら以下に詳述する。ステップ815で、CacheU(O)の値は上位レベル・プロキシにあるオブジェクトOのステージング・ステータスに基づいて下方に調整できる。ステージング・ステータス情報はHTTPヘッダのステージング・ラベル(C-ラベル)に指定される。オブジェクトOがどこかの上位レベル・プロキシ・キャッシュですでにス

ステージングされている場合、それを現在のノードでステージングする必要は減少する。ステップ820で、Cache U (O) が0より大きい場合、ステップ830で、空間量 (S) が (1) オブジェクトOよりもステージング緊急度が低いすべてのオブジェクトO_jによって占められているか、(2) 利用可能、すなわち、現在使用されていないかが判定される。ステップ840でSがオブジェクトOのサイズ (O) より大きいと判定された場合、ステップ850でオブジェクトOのCV値が更新されて現在のノードでステージングされたことを示す。10
 詳細に言えば、元のCV値は2倍して1を加えて新しいCV値とすることができる。ステップ870で、オブジェクトOはキャッシュ (270) に記憶され、オブジェクトに関連するCV、UV、およびCache Uの値はメモリのオブジェクト情報 (290) 部分に記憶される。オブジェクトOは必要に応じて、ステージング緊急度がより低い値を持つ他のオブジェクトと交換できる。ステップ820でCache U (O) の値がゼロの場合、オブジェクトはステージングされず、CV値は更新されてこのプロキシでステージングされていないことを示す。具体的には、元のCV値に2を掛けて新しいCV値を得ることができる。さらに、オブジェクトのC-ラベルはステップ850またはステップ880で生成された新しいCV値を取り、オブジェクトが階層中を下方にプッシュされる際のステージング・ステータスを示す (図11のステップ1100を参照)。

【0055】本発明の精神と範囲を逸脱することなく、さまざまなキャッシュ組込み処理が可能であることを当業者は理解するであろう。例えば、今まで要求がなかったとしても新しいカテゴリ内のオブジェクトを空間変数単位でステージングすることができる。

【0056】図9にオブジェクトOのステージング緊急度の計算論理の例を示す。ステップ905で、ステージング緊急度の値Cache U (O) が例えば0に初期化される。ステップ910で、インデックス変数iが0に初期化される。ステップ920で、インデックス変数iが次の下位レベルのノードの数Nより小さく、ステップ930でプッシュ決定変数P (i) が1でない場合、ステップ940でCache U (O) はRV (i) UV (O) だけインクリメントする。ステップ945で、iはインクリメントし、処理はステップ920に戻る。ステップ920でi > Nの場合、処理は終了する。

【0057】図10に欠落プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ (240) の例を示す。プッシュ・オブジェクトOがフィルタリングされ、その後下位レベル・ノードから要求された場合、ステップ1005でオブジェクトOが現在のノードでステージングされているか判定される。ステージングされている場合、ステップ1010でオブジェクトはそのC-ラベルにCV値を挿入して要求されたノードへ返送される。ステップ1020で、オブ

ジェクトOのステージング緊急度の値が再び計算される。ステップ1030で、この値がゼロまで低下した (オブジェクト上のインタレストを持つすべての次の下位レベルのノードがそのオブジェクトのコピーを受信した) 場合、または何か別の規定値もしくは計算値にまで低下した場合、ステップ1040でオブジェクトOはもはやステージングされない。ステップ1005で、オブジェクトがステージングされない場合、ステップ1080で要求は上位レベル・プロキシ・サーバまたはコンテンツ送信元へ転送される。

【0058】図11にプッシュ実行ルーチンの例を示す (図5、ステップ530)。ステップ1100で、オブジェクトのCV値 (図8のステップ850または880から) がHTTPヘッダのC-ラベルに挿入される。ステップ1120で、オブジェクトO全体がP (i) が1に等しいすべての次の下位レベルのノードへプッシュされる。ステップ1140で、オブジェクトOのサマリ・ヘッダがP (i) が0.5のすぐ下のレベルのすべてのノードにプッシュされる。ステップ1160で、あるノードiへのプッシュが不成功の場合 (リンクまたはノード障害もしくはモバイル・クライアントがアクセス不能)、P (i) 値がゼロにリセットされる。さらに、オブジェクトOのステージング決定ルーチン (図5のステップ520) がチェックされる。ステージング決定出力がオブジェクトのステージングを実行しない場合、ステージング決定ルーチン (図8) は新しいP (i) 値のセットを指定して再呼び出され、プッシュの一部が失敗したためにオブジェクトを今ステージングするかどうかを決定する。

【0059】プロキシの一部がフィルタリング・プロトコルに適合せずコラボレーションに参加しない従来のプロキシである異機種プロキシ・サーバ環境では動的プッシュ・フィルタリングが有効であることを当業者は理解するであろう。

【0060】本発明の好ましい実施形態で、ウェブ・サーバの一般のプッシュ・フィルタリング方式について説明してきた。ただし、本発明はプッシュ対象のオブジェクトが同様の特性を備えるいかなる種類の状況にも適用可能で、必ずしもインターネットやWWWの適用分野に限定されないことを当業者は理解するであろう。

【0061】本発明の好ましい実施形態は階層の親ノードおよび子ノード間のステージングを伴う協動的なプッシュ・フィルタリングであるが、兄弟ノード間のコラボレーションを含めるように容易に適合させることができる。例えば、上位階層でプロキシが要求されたオブジェクトをステージングしていない場合、プロキシから兄弟プロキシへ照会ができる。さらに、図8のステージング決定を、兄弟ノードを含め、ただしこれに限定されず、階層外のプロキシ・ノードのステージング決定の因数に容易に適応させてそのステージング決定に使用すること

ができる。

【0062】まとめとして、本発明の構成に関して以下の事項を開示する。

【0063】(1) プッシュされたオブジェクトが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層においてその後プッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、プッシュされたオブジェクトに関連する利用状況情報を階層中を上方に送信するステップと、送信されたオブジェクト利用状況情報に基づいてその後プッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

(2) プッシュされたオブジェクトが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層においてプッシュされたオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、情報を総合しノード間で交換するステップと、プッシュされたオブジェクトを、総合され交換された情報に基づいてフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

(3) 前記フィルタリング・ステップがフィルタリングされたオブジェクトに関連するメタ情報を送信するステップをさらに含む、上記(2)に記載の方法。

(4) フィルタリング決定、選択された下位レベル・プロキシ/クライアントへのプッシュの成功裏の完了、利用状況情報、および階層内の他のプロキシ・ノードでのステージング決定のいずれかに基づいてオブジェクトの適応ステージングを行うステップをさらに含む、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(5) プッシュされたオブジェクトがメタ情報のコンテンツ階層を含み、その後プッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングする前記ステップがプロキシ階層中を下方にメタ情報を送信するステップをさらに含む、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(6) メタ情報を送信する前記ステップが、オブジェクトの短い説明を階層中を下方に送信するステップと、フィルタリングされたオブジェクトをプロキシ階層内でステージングするステップとをさらに含む、上記(5)に記載の方法。

(7) オブジェクトをステージングする前記ステップが、ユーザ・プロファイルで示された潜在的なインタレストを有するすぐ下位のレベルのすべてのプロキシまたはクライアント・ノードがオブジェクトを受信したか、あるいはステージング緊急度関数が所定および計算しきい値を下回ったか、そのいずれかの後にステージングされたオブジェクトをバージするステップをさらに含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(8) 前記フィルタリング・ステップがさらに階層内のすべての下位クライアント・ノードによるプッシュされたオブジェクトの総合利用状況およびプリファレンスを規定するステップをさらに含む、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(9) オブジェクトがオブジェクト・グループに分類さ

れ、各オブジェクト・グループの利用状況情報が以前のユーザ要求パターンに基づく、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(10) 利用状況情報が下位レベル・プロキシまたはクライアントの要求パターンを含み、前記プッシュされたオブジェクトを異なるグループに分類するステップと、プッシュされたオブジェクトのグループ分けを含む利用状況情報を総合しノード間で交換するステップと、総合され交換された情報およびプッシュされたオブジェクトのグループ化に基づいてプッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとをさらに含む、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(11) フィルタリング決定またはステージング決定が帯域幅、オブジェクト・プロパティ、またはクライアント特性のいずれかの関数である、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(12) クライアント特性がユーザ・プロファイルまたはプリファレンス情報を含む、上記(11)に記載の方法。

(13) オブジェクト緊急度標識をプッシュされたオブジェクトに関連付けて階層中を下方に送信するステップをさらに含む、前記フィルタリング・ステップがオブジェクト緊急度標識の関数である、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(14) 緊急度標識を1つまたは複数の異なる階層レベルに関連付けるステップをさらに含む、前記ステージング・ステップが、緊急度標識の関数としてコンテンツ階層の1つまたは複数のレベルでオブジェクトをステージングするステップを含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(15) 前記フィルタリング・ステップとステージング・ステップのいずれかがオブジェクト・サイズの関数である、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(16) 前記フィルタリング・ステップと前記ステージング・ステップのいずれかがオブジェクトの寿命または満了時間の関数である、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(17) 前記ステージング・ステップに応答して、プッシュされたオブジェクトのステージング・ステータスをプッシュされたオブジェクトへ送信するステップをさらに含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(18) プロキシ階層が、前記フィルタリング・ステップと前記ステージング・ステップのいずれかが階層内のすべてのサーバによっては実行されない異種プロキシ階層を含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(19) PICS利用状況ラベルを作成し、PICSカテゴリ値を使ってプロキシ階層の下位レベルでの総合利用状況情報を表すステップをさらに含む、前記送信ステップがPICS利用状況ラベルを使って総合利用状況情報を階層中を上方に送信するステップを含む、上記(2)に記載の方法。

(20) PICSステージング・ラベルを作成し、P I

C Sカテゴリ値を使ってプロキシ階層の所与のレベルにおけるステージングされたオブジェクトのステージング・ステータスを表すステップと、P I C Sステージング・ラベルを使ってステージング・ステータスを階層中を下方に送信するステップをさらに含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(21) P I C Sプッシュ・ラベルを作成し、P I C Sカテゴリ値を使ってプッシュされたオブジェクトの緊急度標識を表すステップと、P I C Sプッシュ・ラベルを使って緊急度標識を階層中を下方に送信するステップとをさらに含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(22) メタ情報プロトコルを使って階層中を情報を送信する、上記(1)ないし(3)、(5)、(6)、(9)ないし(10)、(14)ないし(15)、(19)ないし(20)または(21)のいずれか一項に記載の方法。

(23) P I S Cプロトコルを使って階層中を情報を送信する、上記(1)ないし(3)、(5)、(6)、(9)ないし(10)、(14)ないし(15)、(19)ないし(20)または(21)のいずれか一項に記載の方法。

(24) P I C Sプッシュ・ラベルを作成し、P I C Sカテゴリ値を使ってプッシュされたオブジェクトのサマリを表すステップと、P I C Sプッシュ・ラベルを使ってサマリを階層中を下方に送信するステップとをさらに含む、上記(4)に記載の方法。

(25) 階層外のプロキシ・ノードについてのステージング決定に基づいてオブジェクトの適応ステージングを行うステップをさらに含む、上記(1)に記載の方法。

(26) プッシュされたオブジェクトのストリームが階層中を下方に送信されるプロキシ階層において、その後プッシュされるオブジェクトを動的にフィルタリングする方法であって、プッシュ・ストリームにメタ情報の注釈を付けるステップと、前記の注釈付けステップに応答

して、1つまたは複数のプッシュされたオブジェクトをフィルタリングするステップとを含む方法。

(27) フィルタリング決定とステージング決定のいずれかが、コンテンツ階層のレベルが異なると変わる、上記(6)に記載の方法。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の機能を備えた上位レベル・クライアントサーバ・アーキテクチャの図である。

【図2】図1のサーバの例を示す図である。

【図3】サーバ論理の例を示す図である。

【図4】ヘッド要求ハンドラの例を示す図である。

【図5】プッシュ・ハンドラの例を示す図である。

【図6】プッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチンの例を示す図である。

【図7】プッシュ・サマリ・フィルタリング・ルーチンの例を示す図である。

【図8】ステージング決定ルーチンの例を示す図である。

【図9】ステージング緊急度の計算例を示す図である。

【図10】欠落したプッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラの例を示す図である。

【図11】プッシュ実行ルーチンの例を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

20 ウェブ・サイト

25 インターネット

30 レベル0プロキシ

35 レベル1プロキシ

37 レベル1プロキシ

40 レベル2プロキシ

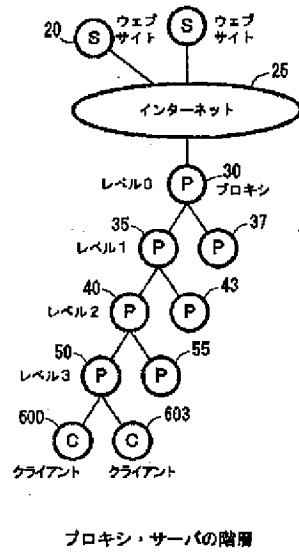
43 レベル2プロキシ

50 レベル3プロキシ

600 クライアント

603 クライアント

【図1】



【図2】

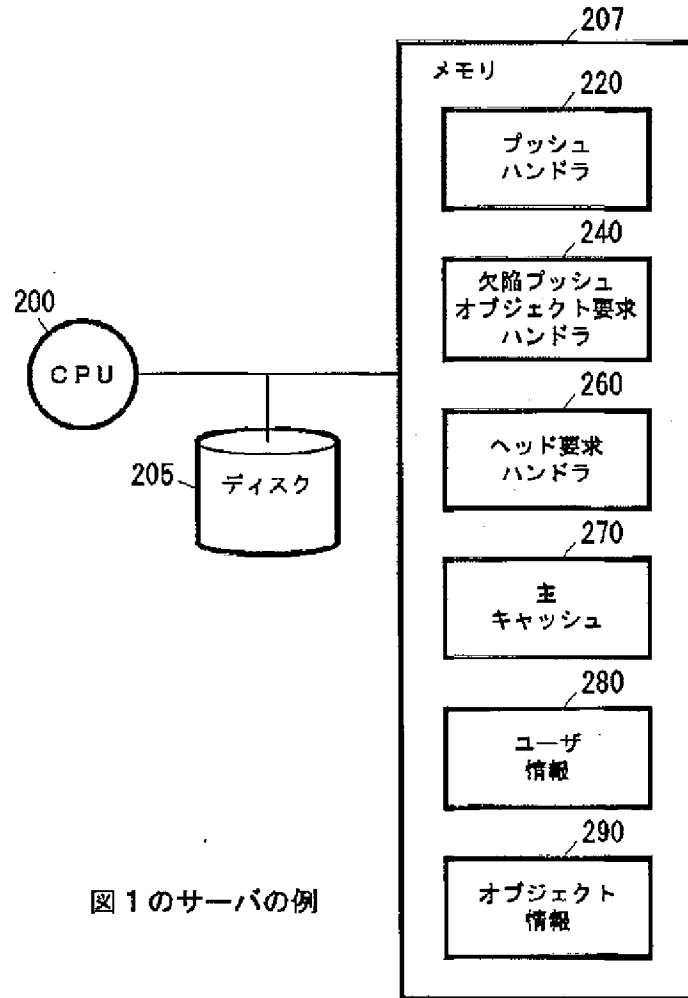
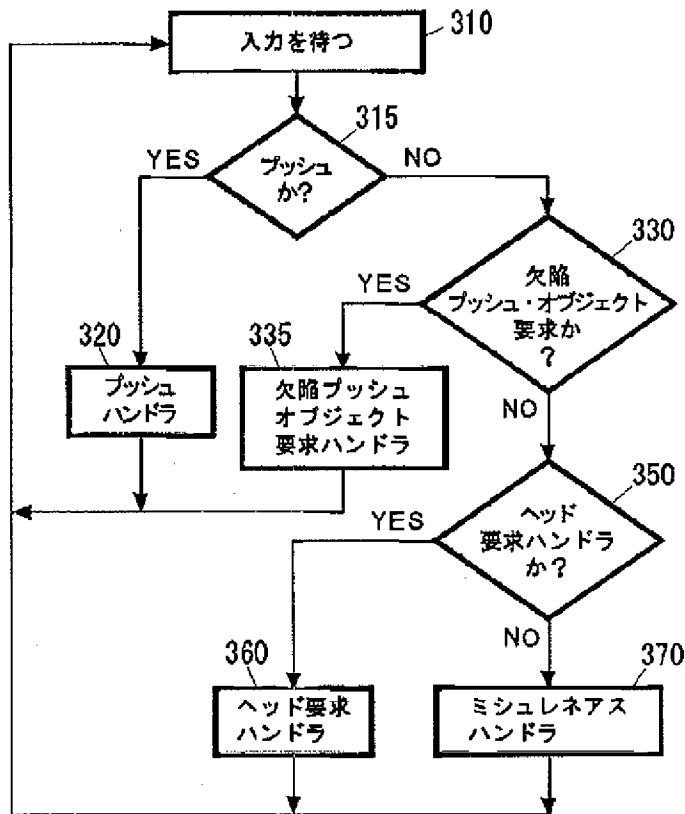


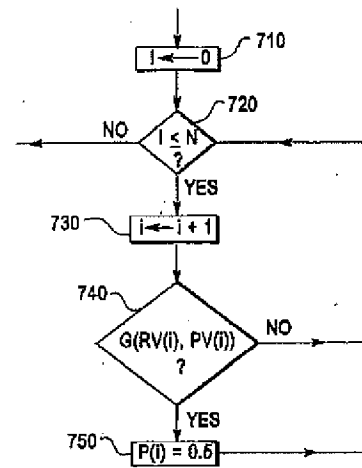
図1のサーバの例

【図 3】



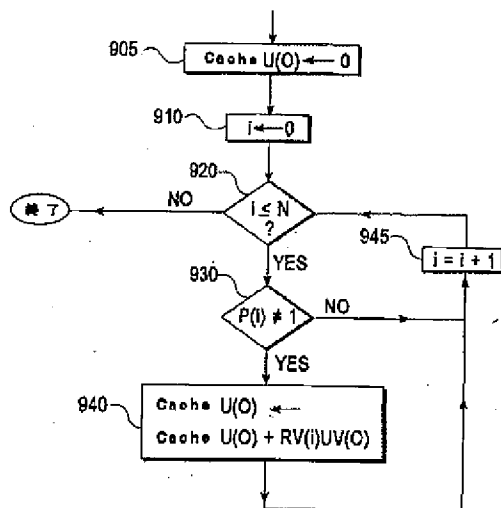
サーバ論理の例

【図 7】



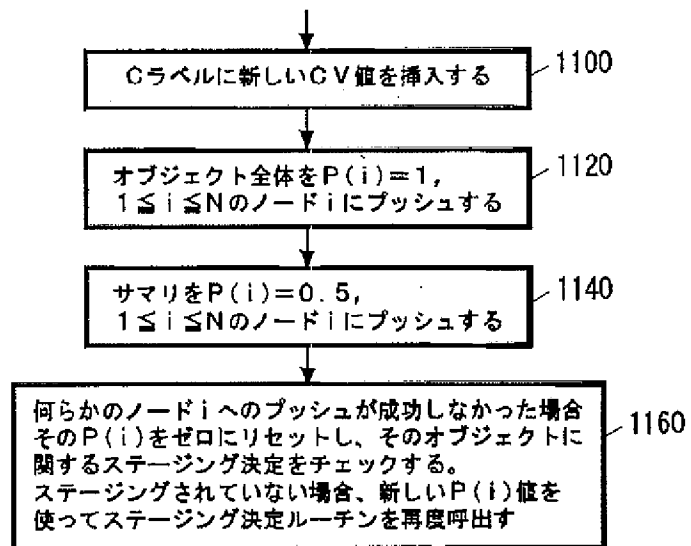
プッシュ・サマリ・フィルタリング・ルーチン

【図 9】



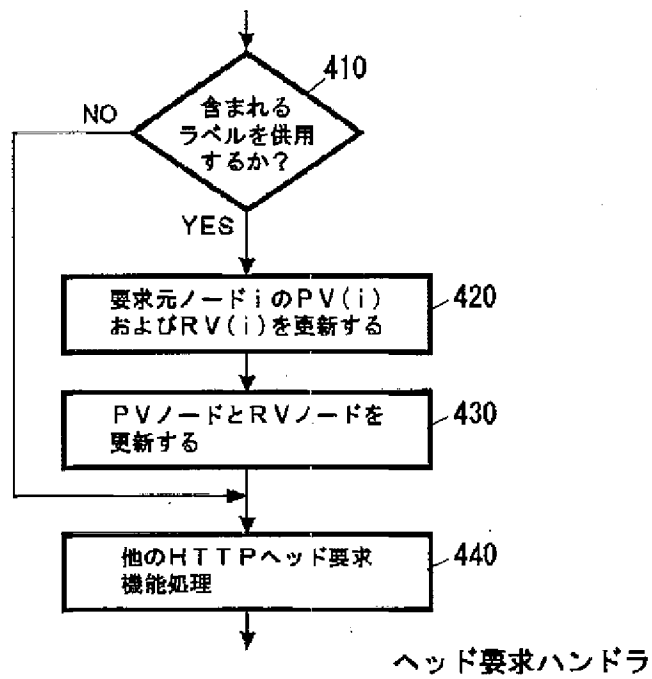
ステージング緊急度の計算

【図 11】

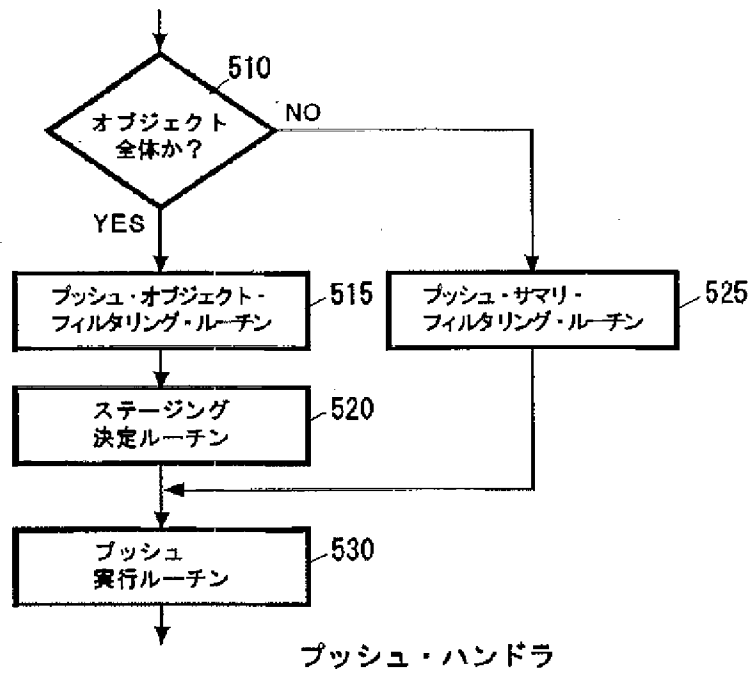


プッシュ実行ルーチン

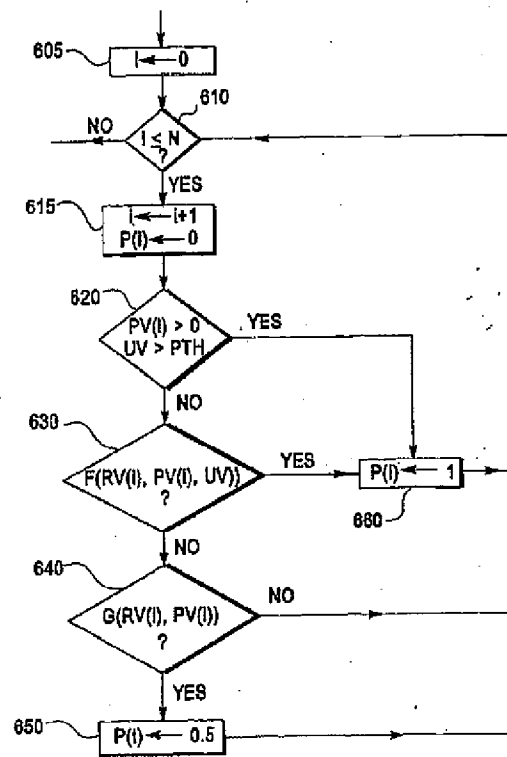
【図 4】



【図 5】

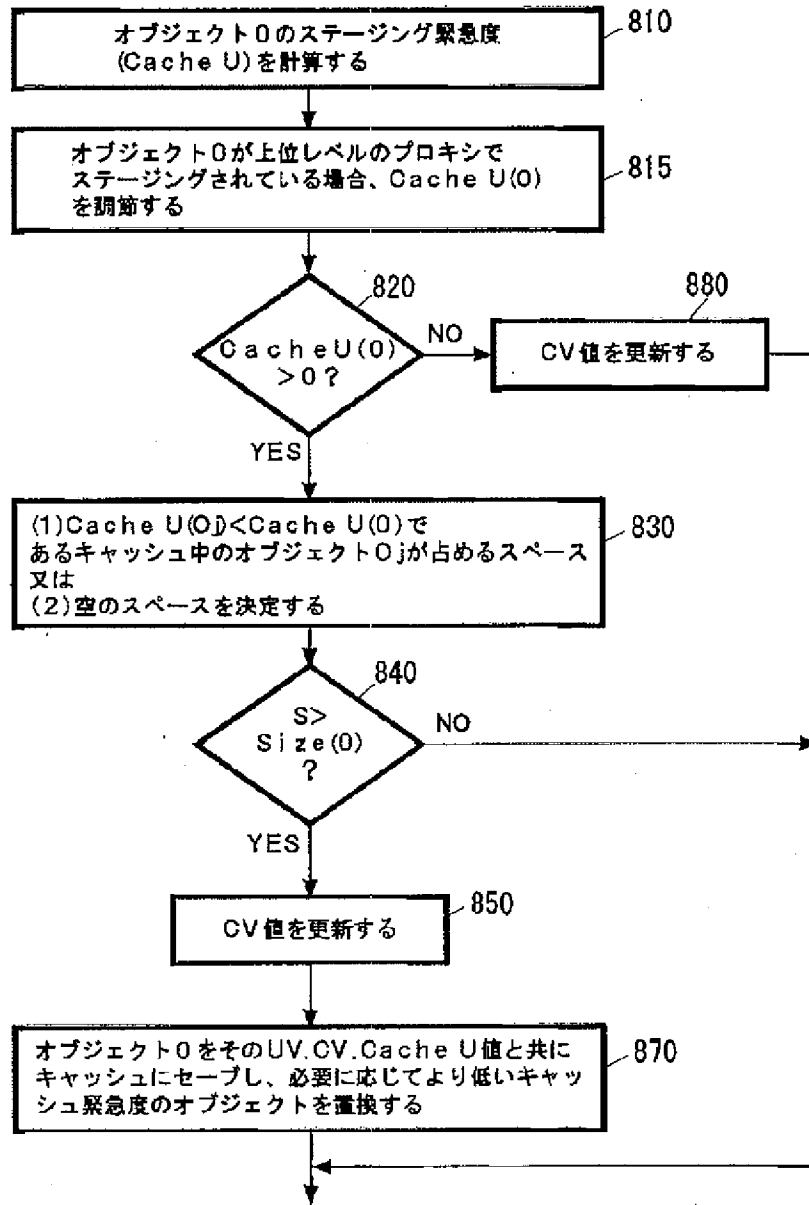


【図 6】



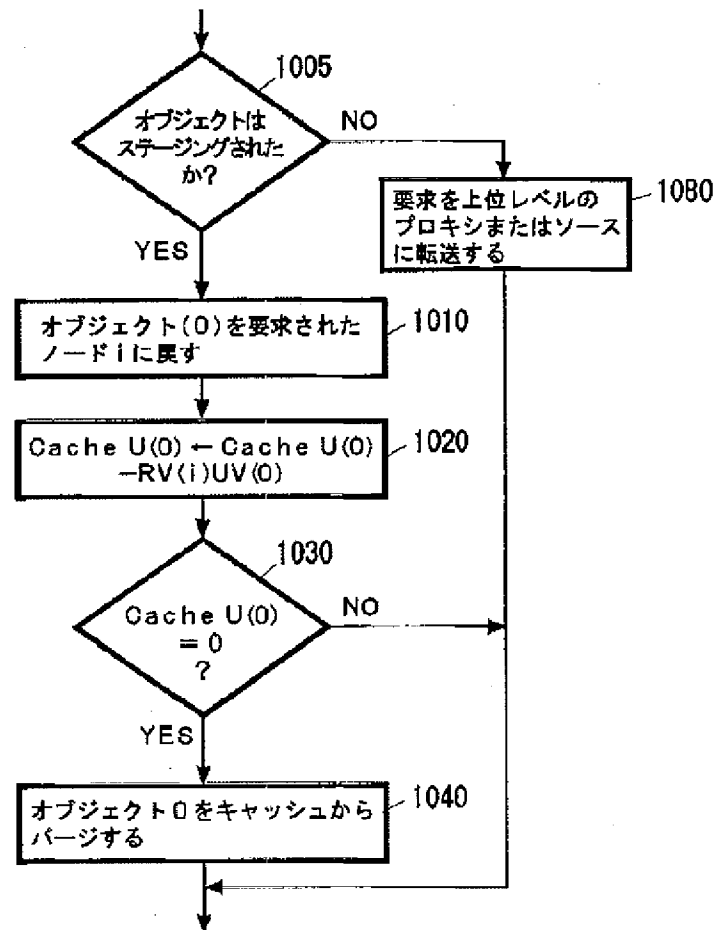
プッシュ・オブジェクト・フィルタリング・ルーチン

【図8】



ステージング決定ルーチン

【図10】



欠陥プッシュ・オブジェクト要求ハンドラ

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